



New Jersey Pinelands Commission PRESS RELEASE

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Norman F. Tomasello, the Acting Chairman and a 14-year member of the Pinelands Commission, steps down

NEW LISBON, N.J. – Norman F. Tomasello, who served as the Acting Chairman of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission and was a 14-year veteran of the Pinelands panel, has resigned from his post.

A resident of Winslow Township, Tomasello has served as Camden County's representative on the Commission since July 12, 1996, was chosen the Commission's Vice Chairman in 2006 and became the Acting Chairman in October 2008. He tendered his resignation on May 1.

"It is with deep regret that I must submit my resignation as a member of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission after serving nearly 15 years as both a Commissioner and Acting Chairman," Tomasello said. "I appreciate the faith that the Camden County Board of Freeholders has placed in my decision making, and would like to thank them for giving me the opportunity to serve both them and the residents of Camden County.

"I would also like to thank all of the Pinelands Commissioners that I have had the privilege to work with over these many years," Tomasello added. "I extend my sincere appreciation to all of the Pinelands Commission staff for all of their service and friendships over the years."

Tomasello will be missed by Pinelands Commission staff and Commission members.

"Norm is a genuine friend of the Pinelands whose years of dedicated service has greatly strengthened the Pinelands Protection Program," said John C. Stokes, Executive Director of the Commission. "His service, insight and affable personality will be greatly missed."

Candace Ashmun, who has served on the Commission as a gubernatorial appointee since its creation in 1979, praised Tomasello as an effective Commissioner and gentleman.

"He knew his constituency, and he represented them very well," said Ashmun, who will now serve as the Commission's Acting Chairperson. "Mostly, I appreciated him as a person. He was always a gentleman, always fun to be with and did his job well."

Paul E. Galletta, who has served as Atlantic County's representative on the Commission since 2007, said Tomasello will be remembered as "one of the most giving, caring and committed members the Commission has ever had."

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"His personality, full of charm, wit, compassion and statesmanship, can't be replaced," Galletta said. "I think I will miss Norman Tomasello the most from the Commission because of the rides we took together to and from the Commission's offices in New Lisbon. I promise to keep his lively quotes fresh in the minds of the Commissioners in the meetings ahead."

Tomasello retired after 50 years of operating a 110-acre fruit and vegetable farm in Winslow Township. He served as Mayor and Committeeman in Winslow for 15 years. There, he also served as Public Safety Director and on the township planning board. He is Chairman of the Camden County Agricultural Development Board, and is a member of the County Mosquito Control Commission.

Tomasello also served as president of the Camden County Board of Agriculture for 10 years and as Chairman of the Gloucester and Camden County Farmers Home Administration. He is a member of the New Jersey Farm Bureau, on which he served as a past Director. He also is a founding member of the Elm Volunteer Fire Company No. 1.

During his tenure on the Pinelands Commission, Tomasello served on the Policy and Implementation Committee, Personnel and Budget Committee and Audit Committee. He was an alternate member of the Commission's Public and Governmental Programs Committee and Permanent Land Protection Committee.

The Pinelands Commission consists of 15 members. Seven are appointed by the Governor of New Jersey. One member is appointed by each of the seven Pinelands counties, and one is appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Members of the Commission serve staggered, three-year terms and are uncompensated for their service.

***** ATTENTION REPORTERS/EDITORS:** Digital, jpeg photos of Mr. Tomasello can be obtained via e-mail by contacting Paul Leakan at 609) 894-7300, ext. 124.



Norman F. Tomasello