

## **Constitution**

### **The Fulton Montgomery Farmers' Market Association Inc.**

#### **Article I – Name**

The name of this organization shall be The Fulton Montgomery Farmers' Market Association Inc.

#### **Article II – Purpose**

The purpose of this Farmers' Market Association is to operate farmers' markets in Montgomery and Fulton Counties. Our mission is to strengthen the markets in Montgomery and Fulton Counties to be profitable outlets for local agriculture and valuable sources of fresh foods for consumers.

#### **Article III – Membership**

Any person and his/her spouse, if applicable, residing in Montgomery and Fulton counties and all contiguous counties: Hamilton, Herkimer, Saratoga, Schoharie, Schenectady and Otsego; engaged in the growing and production of agricultural products, who agrees to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Association, may become a member upon the approval of the Board of Directors. Any applicants outside the above listed counties may be accepted at the boards' discretion. Membership is also open to persons that make their own homemade products or crafts who live in the counties listed above, agree to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Association, and are approved by the Association's Board of Directors. A non-vendor membership, which shall include voting privileges, shall be available to the general public at a fee of \$10.00 per year.

#### **Article IV – Officers and Board of Directors**

At the organizational meeting, officers of the Association for the upcoming year will be elected by the membership. The officers will comprise the Board of Directors. Any member of the Association is eligible to run for an office.

Only one person per membership may serve on the Board of Directors at the same time. Only one vote is permitted per board member.

The Board will consist of five (5) members with at least three (3) positions to be held by vendors. The following officers are to be elected annually and may not serve more than three consecutive one-year terms in the same office; terms start January 1 and run to December 31: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Members-at-large. The Treasurer shall be elected annually, but may serve more than three consecutive one-year terms.

The Board members serve on a volunteer basis, but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses as determined by the Board of Directors.

#### **Article V – Meetings**

1. Association meetings will be held a minimum of once each fall to wrap-up the market season and nominate officers for the following year. They will meet again in spring to present a budget and market dates and times for the general membership's approval. The dates of these meetings to be designated by the Board of Directors. Special meetings may be called at such other times as the Board deems necessary.

2. The Board of Directors shall meet as necessary to transact the business of the Association, which cannot be accomplished at the regular Association meetings.

3. Members in good standing shall have the privilege of voting at all Association meetings. Members are allowed one vote per membership, as long as they meet the requirements as stated in the by-laws and rules and regulations.

#### **Article VI – Nomination for Elections**

A nominating committee shall be appointed annually by the President. The duties of the nominating committee will be to prepare a slate of officers for the annual elections to be held at the fall meeting of the Association.

#### **Article VII - Records**

Every member shall have the right to examine, for any reasonable purpose, the books, records, roster of membership and other appropriate records of the Association. They may be examined by appointment only with the appropriate officer.

#### **Article VIII – Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year shall be January 1 through December 31.

#### **Article IX –Spending of Monies**

Proceeds derived from annual membership fees and stall rental fees shall be used to pay expenses of the Association, including, but not limited to membership in the Farmers' Market Federation of New York, advertising and promotion, special events, and market manager's salary.

Should the Association dissolve or become inoperative, any remaining money shall be disposed of according to the recommendation of the Board of Directors with the approval of the membership and consistent with applicable laws.

#### **Article X – Rules and Regulations**

The rules and regulations, formulated by the Board of Directors and approved by the majority of the members present at a membership meeting, shall be in effect until changed or amended.

They may be amended by the Board of Directors with subsequent approval of the membership by a majority vote of the members present at a regular membership meeting. The membership shall be notified that the changes will be discussed and acted upon at said meeting.

#### **Article XI – Amendments**

The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the Association, by a two-third vote of the members present, provided notification of such proposed amendments be given to the membership ten (10) days prior to a vote.