



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Patrick Harrison, Apiarist (S0529A)

FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION
OF THE
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

CSC Docket No. 2020-82

Examination Appeal

ISSUED: October 29, 2019 (EG)

Patrick Harrison appeals the determination of the Division of Agency Services (Agency Services) which found that he was below the minimum requirements in experience for the open competitive examination for Apiarist (S0529A).

The subject open competitive examination was announced with pertinent requirements which had to be met as of the announced closing date of June 4, 2019. Specifically, applicants were required to possess a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college. Additionally, applicants needed to possess three years of professional experience in the bee industry including the identification and eradication of bee diseases. Applicants who did not possess the required education could substitute additional experience as indicated on a year for year basis. A total of five individuals applied for the subject examination that resulted in a list of one eligible with an expiration date of July 10, 2022. It is noted that the sole eligible was permanently appointed.

A review of the appellant's application and resume indicates that he possesses a Bachelor's degree. Additionally, it indicates that the appellant has served as a Market Manager, Bee Keeper for Goose Rock Farm from June 2018 to May 2019 and as a part-time Beekeeper, Owner with HarBee BeeKeeping from November 2017 to May 2019. Agency Services determined that he possessed one year of prorated experience for your part-time Beekeeper, Owner position. However, it did not find any of his other work experience applicable.

On appeal, the appellant argues that as President of the Beekeeping Club at Ramapo College from August 2016 to May 2018, he was the sole caretaker of the

Ramapo honey bee colony. His duties also included organizing beekeepers' meetings, and giving educational talks on honey bee diseases. Additionally, the appellant contends that his duties at both Goose Rock Farm and HarBee BeeKeeping included being responsible for managing the health and detection of disease of over 200 colonies of honeybees across 30 locations. In support of his contention the appellant submits a letter from the owner of HarBee BeeKeeping corroborating the appellant's statements.

CONCLUSION

N.J.A.C. 4A:4-2.3(b) provides that applicants shall meet all requirements specified in the open-competitive examination announcement by the closing date. Additionally, *N.J.A.C.* 4A:4-6.3(b) provides that an appellant has the burden of proof in examination and selection disqualification appeals.

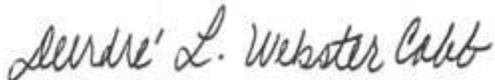
In the instant matter, Agency Services appropriately denied the appellant's eligibility for the subject examination for lacking the required applicable experience. The experience gained by the appellant in his beekeeping club at school is not applicable work experience. It is noted that participating in a club at school is not working and does not provide any applicable work experience. With regard to the appellant's work experience, even if all of the positions he listed were accepted as applicable work experience, he would still be one year and one month short of meeting the three years of required experience. Accordingly, based on the foregoing, the appellant has not met his burden of proof, and has not provided a basis to disturb the determination of Agency Services that he was ineligible for the title under test.

ORDER

Therefore, it is ordered that the appeal be denied.

This is the final administrative determination in this matter. Any further review should be pursued in a judicial forum.

DECISION RENDERED BY THE
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION ON
THE 23RD DAY OF OCTOBER, 2019



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