

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
June 4, 2007
Meeting Minutes**

At 7:11 pm, Mr. Romano called the meeting to Order.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

Roll Call:

Present: Butch, Halka, Pinhas, Romano

Absent: Wilson

Approval of the minutes of May 7, 2007. Ms. Pinhas offered a motion, and Ms. Butch offered a second. All in favor.

Public Comment

The public comment portion opened and closed at 7:11 pm.

Old Business

- Farmland Public Auction – Ms. Butch mentioned that the first of two auctions for five farms in Burlington and Hunterdon counties is set for this week.
- Municipal Planning Incentive Grant - Agricultural Economic Development Actions – The draft list of actions was reviewed again and updated to include planned actions.

New Business

- NJ Farm Productivity Enhancement Classes – Ms. Butch mentioned that the NJ Department of Agriculture has been awarded a grant to fund training programs for the state's farming and horticulture communities. The classes are geared toward improving the productivity and safety of farms, agricultural work sites, and the workers they employ. Ms. Naugle will post a link to the classes on the website.
- Treatment of Equine Facilities in State Programs Designed to Protect Agriculture – Ms. Butch asked that a copy of this document be posted to the website. The bulletin summarizes and compares the eligibility criteria for equine facilities farmland preservation, farm assessment, and right-to-farm across eleven states.
- NJ Farmland Assessment Act – Ms. Butch asked that a copy of the NJ Farmland Assessment Act be posted to the website. This document outlines the eligibility requirements for compliance with this assessment. Ms. Butch suggested this as a topic for a Council seminar.

- Goals for this Year – Ms. Butch suggested the Council set written goals for this year. The group brainstormed and established the following:
 - Trailer Rescue Demo – As a follow-up to the Equine Rescue Clinic held in February, the Council will pursue this demo. Ms. Pinhas will confirm that the two trailers at the fire house are dedicated to this purpose. The demo will include the Office of Emergency Management, First Aid Squad, Fire Department, and Township residents.
 - Farmland Assessment Seminar – Ms. Butch suggested this topic be addressed in the late fall. The topics will target residents with approximately 6 acres of property and review the criteria for qualification in the program. Ms. Butch will contact the Department of Agriculture to request a dynamic state-level speaker to participate in the event.
 - Right to Farm Seminar – Ms. Butch suggested this topic be addressed as a public seminar. The topics will target residents with commercial farms who may or may not be eligible for right-to-farm protection.
 - Barn Protection Field Trip – Mr. Halka and Ms. Butch will visit a local farm to perform a preliminary review of a barn heat and smoke system. A second tour for Township residents will be set if the system is advisable for other barn owners.
 - Manure Management Project – The manure management legislation continues to loom in the near future. The Council should aggressively pursue alternatives to offer to Township residents once this legislation is passed. Mr. Halka will follow-up with Mr. Tom Dancer, who visited the Council on May 7, 2007. Mr. Dancer is expected to return to the Council meeting on July 9, 2007.
 - Road Safety Article – Ms. Butch will contact Ms. Jane Meggitt to request an article on road safety as it relates to farm equipment and horses. Ms. Pinhas will provide pictures of farming activity.
- Next Month's meeting - The date of the next meeting has been changed from July 2, 2007, to July 9, 2007. Ms. Naugle will post the notice in the newspapers. Additionally, Mr. Romano will invite Dr. Palmer to be a guest at the meeting.

At 8:55 pm, Mr. Halka made a motion to adjourn and Ms. Pinhas offered a second. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Naugle