

Millstone Township
Agricultural Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2008

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:14 PM.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

Present: Butch, Halka, Pinhas, Romano

Absent: Asprocolas

A motion was made by Ms. Butch to approve the July 7, 2008, minutes with a second offered by Mr. Romano and all in favor.

Correspondence

- **Monmouth County Planning Board letter dated June 30, 2008, RE: Panhandle Region Plan "Kick-Off" Meeting Announcement:** Mr. Romano was unable to attend the July 30th meeting; Ms. Butch, who attended as the OSFP Council Chair, provided highlights from the meeting; Allentown, Millstone, Roosevelt, and Upper Freehold Township compose the panhandle collaborative; the goal of the collaborative is to prepare a Panhandle Region Plan; attendees were asked to list and discuss the region's most critical needs and issues, which include COAH, farmland preservation, support for agriculture, taxes and state police coverage; the next meeting will be held in September or October.

Old Business

- **Open Farm Market**
 - **Feedback** about the farm market from vendors, customers and the market manager has been positive; business has been steady.
 - **Vendors** - Council members discussed the following inquiries regarding vendor registrations:
 - an unregistered vendor attempted to sell at the market on July 26th; the market manager informed the vendor that registration packages must be completed, approved by the Council and the information provided to the Monmouth County Board of Health prior to being permitted to sell at the market; the vendor packed up and left.
 - Soliciting donations for charity/non-profit groups: Council members agreed that soliciting donations falls outside the intended purpose of the market and would not be appropriate because the market is held on Township-owned property.
 - Distributing free samples of water: Council members agreed that this falls outside the intended purpose of the market.
 - Selling prepared/frozen food items: Council members agreed that this falls outside the intended purpose of the market and will not be permitted at this time.

- **Location** – Ms. Pinhas explained that vendor Margaret Patterson expressed concerns regarding moving the market across Baird Road to the open field because senior citizens may have difficulty walking in the grass; football practice was held at the park on Saturday, July 26th, and there were no issues with parking or conflicts with the market which may mean that the market can remain in the Wagner Farm Park parking lot.
 - **Fee ordinance** – a fee ordinance will be prepared by attorney Simon Kaufman; the fee will help to cover the cost of the market manager.
 - **Advertising** – signs have been posted throughout town; Jersey Fresh signs were received from the Department of Agriculture to post at the market; advertisements appeared in the Examiner, the Messenger Press, the Summer edition of the Open Space newsletter, posted on the township website and placed on the PEG channel; the market is also listed on the NJ Department of Ag website; Mr. Romano was contacted by Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Kuperus, who plans to visit the market either later this year or next year.
 - **Market Kick-off** – Mr. Romano suggested having an official market kick-off on Saturday, September 6, and requested Council members to check their schedules for availability; the Township Committee will be invited for a planned ribbon cutting ceremony.
- **OEM Large Animal Action Plan**
- Only 19 survey responses have been received to date; Mr. Romano suggested holding an open public meeting to explain the purpose and importance of surveys directly to residents; Mr. Romano will ask the Recreation Department if they are willing to switch meeting rooms on September 8th; the regular monthly Council meeting will take place at 7:00 PM and the Open Public portion of the meeting will be take place at 7:30 PM.
 - Ms. Butch and Ms. Maggi Romano have been attending the OEM meetings and were assigned the task of preparing the County Animal Response Team (CART) plan.
 - Ms. Butch will review the list of available dates for the Community Center to set up an initial CART brainstorming meeting; Ms. Butch has contacted various Township veterinarians, some of whom have offered to assist with the plan; once the plan is established an implementation team will be formed.
 - Ms. Butch and Mr. Romano will put the presentation together and research available funding from the County and/or State.
 - Vendors, other than veterinarians, will be needed in an emergency.
 - The Secretary will post notices for the meeting and send notices to all farmland assessed properties when the meeting date is set; Ms. Butch will speak to Jane Meggitt at the August 6th Township Committee meeting regarding an article in the Examiner about the CART meeting.
- **Municipal Farm Lease** – The Township Committee considered the recommendations offered by the Council regarding the lease of the Lee Farm; the portion of the property that will be developed first will go out to

bid to a sod farmer for a two-year lease; the balance of the leased farmland will be extended to July 2009 to the current lessee.

- **Newsletter** - Mr. Romano suggested that the Ag Council absorb some of the cost of the Open Space newsletters; Ms. Butch made a motion to have the Agricultural Advisory Council share the newsletter printing and postage expense with the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council; a second was offered by Ms. Pinhas with all in favor; an article on the farm market will appear in the Fall newsletter.
- **Manure Management**
 - Legislation has been passed with a two year compliance time frame.
 - The Ag Council would like to advertise vendors who are willing to remove manure from property on the Council website and in the newsletter; the Ag Council will not be involved in the actual movement of manure or monetary transactions and is not looking to build a manure recycling center.
 - Mr. Tom Dancer has agreed to attend the September Council meeting; a business case will be required before the Council will advertise Mr. Dancer's services; Millstone will receive credit for manure that is recycled in the Township; Ms. Butch requested information regarding rates.

Events

- **Farm Market Kick-off: Saturday, September 6**
 - Council members should check their calendars for availability
- **Millstone Day: Sunday, September 21**
 - The Ag Council in association with the Open Space Council will sponsor the Bull Ride and Money Booth
 - Donations are light this year and members are asked to assist with solicitation of prizes and donations.

New Business

- **Economic Development Council Liaison** - Ms. Pinhas attended the July Economic Development Council meeting and provided an overview; the ED Council is looking at the Route 33 corridor, specifically Showplace Farms, the Hom Farm and the area where the Red Wagon Farm Market is located; Ms. Butch informed the Council that the Red Wagon property is too wet to develop; The ED Council is preparing a report which will be presented at either the September 17th or October 1st TC meeting; the ED Council will schedule and open public meeting for residents to review the plan; Ms. Butch suggested that Ms. Pinhas bring wetlands maps to the next ED Council meeting.

At 8:47 PM a motion was made by Ms. Butch with a second offered by Ms. Pinhas and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher