

**Millstone Township  
Agricultural Advisory Council**  
Meeting Minutes  
April 7, 2008

Vice-Chairwoman Pinhas called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

**Roll Call:**

Present: Mr. Asprocolas, Ms. Butch, Mr. Halka, Ms. Pinhas

Absent: Mr. Romano

In attendance: Mayor Grbelja, Mr. Ken Gann, Mr. Lester Jargowsky

A motion was made by Ms. Butch to approve the March 3, 2008, minutes with a second offered by Mr. Halka and with all in favor the minutes were approved.

**Old Business**

- **Correspondence** – Ms. Pinhas reviewed the following items:
  - **Farm Service Agency Newsletter dated 2/20/08**
  - **Monmouth County Press release dated 2/29/08** – Freeholders oppose eliminating NJ Dept of Ag
  - **Local Government Ethics Law Financial Disclosure Statement** – to be completed by Council members and returned to the Municipal Clerk's office by April 30<sup>th</sup>.
  
- **Goals for 2008**
  - **Educational Programs**
    - The Farm Conservation Plan seminar was held on January 28, 2008.
    - Trailer rescue: Ms. Pinhas will coordinate a trailer rescue training session with the fire department; Mr. Ken Gann of the DPW and OEM will be sending 2 DPW employees and 2 OEM members to rescue training in June; the Secretary will post the training brochure on the Council website.
    - Food handling and safety in relation to farm market regulations and field operations for food crops.
    - Pesticide handling in relation to core credits and certification; program would need to be scheduled through Rutgers or the County Agent.
  - **Farmer Awareness Program**
    - Council website to be maintained with pertinent news and regulations
  - **Public Awareness Programs**
    - Work jointly with the Open Space Council on Newsletters, Millstone Day and the annual Clambake fundraiser
    - Initiate planning phase of a local farm market
  - **Environmental Projects**
    - Develop a manure removal program to comply with new State regulations.
  - **Large Animal OEM Project**
    - Coordinate a disaster preparedness plan with OEM

A motion was made by Ms. Butch to approve the current list of goals for 2008, with the possibility of amending or adding goals at a later date; a second was offered by Mr. Halka and with all in favor, the motion was carried.

➤ **OEM Large Animal Action Plan**

- Mr. Jargowsky of the Township OEM provided information from the UFT OEM meeting that he and Mr. Romano attended on March 13 including an emphasis that mutual aid is the best way to deal with emergencies; he explained that risks for Millstone include wildfire; discussion included the reaction of horses and other animals to smoke and actions that can be taken to protect animals and move them to safety; M/Grbelja asked Mr. Jargowsky and Mr. Gann if there is a designated area within Millstone to temporarily shelter horses that may have lost shelter due to barn fire; Mr. Jargowsky emphasized mutual aid and Council members discussed preparing a list of farms that would be able to take on additional animals in the case of a fire or other emergency; potential shelter areas include the Horse Park of NJ, Showplace Farms and the Equine Clinic; acquiring an adequate supply and providing hay and water during emergency situations was also discussed; M/Grbelja announced that she and Mr. Jargowsky applied for a grant to convert Campo Mine into a drafting station to use as a water source for fires and for animals during emergencies
- Mr. Romano provided a draft of a survey via email for the Council to review; the survey will be updated to include a confidentiality marking and will be accompanied by a cover letter specifying that the survey results will be used solely for determining number of livestock for OEM purposes; a motion was made by Ms. Butch to approve the survey and send it to every resident in town via the annual Township mailing with a cover letter on one side and the large animal OEM survey on the reverse; a second was offered by Mr. Asprocolas with all in favor.
- Mr. Gann requested the designation of an Ag Council member as a liaison to the OEM; Ms. Butch asked Mr. Gann to provide a list of OEM meeting dates and stated that the representation may be shared by more than one Ag Council member.
- Mr. Jargowsky requested that the Ag Council provide a realistic scenario of an emergency situation so that the OEM can use the scenario as an example to prepare an action plan.

➤ **Open Farm Market**

- M/Grbelja requested that a letter be prepared by the Ag Council and sent to the Superintendent of Schools to request use of the Elementary School lower parking lot for a local farm market; the Secretary will prepare a letter; if use of the parking area is not permitted, the Ag Council will plan to use the overflow parking area across from Wagner Farm Park on Baird Road.

➤ **Farm Lease**

- The Secretary will provide a list of all items to be addressed in a municipal farm lease to Council members.

- **2008 NJ State Agricultural Convention Discussion**
  - Mr. Asprocolas provided an overview of speakers and topics discussed, including a farm tour for legislators to provide them with a better understanding of what they are voting on and water quality issues.

### **New Business**

- **Farm Bureau Rally**
  - Ms. Butch and Mr. Asprocolas attended the April 1<sup>st</sup> rally in Trenton and provided an overview of the rally.
- **Municipal Farmland Preservation Plan Open Public**
  - The Open Public Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Butch requested that a quorum from the Ag Council attend the meeting to approve changes to the Farmland Preservation Plan; Ms. Butch, Mr. Romano and Ms. Pinhas will attend the meeting.
- **OSFP Clambake Fundraiser**
  - This year there will be 2 separate seatings to reduce waiting times experienced last year; a sign-up sheet was distributed for members to volunteer to help with the fundraiser.
- **Monmouth County Save the Horse Committee**
  - M/Grbelja discussed the establishment of a new Monmouth County Blue Ribbon Committee called "Save the Horse"; M/Grbelja will serve as Chairperson of the Committee which will advocate for the equine and related industries throughout the County; M/Grbelja provided information from the first meeting, held on April 4<sup>th</sup>, including the formation of 3 subcommittees: one for legislation, one for disseminating educational information and one to create a database of supporters' names and contact information.

At 9:41 PM a motion was made by Ms. Butch with a second offered by Mr. Asprocolas and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 9:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher