

**Millstone Township
Agricultural Advisory Council**

Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2009

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

Present: Asprocolas, Butch, Halka, Pinhas, Romano

Absent:

A motion was made by Ms. Pinhas to approve the December 1, 2008, minutes with a second offered by Ms. Butch and all in favor.

Reorganization

- Appointments, reappointments and election of officers
 - Appointments and reappointments will be made at the January 6th Township Committee reorganization meeting.
 - Discussion regarding election of officers will be deferred to the end of the meeting.
- Adoption of calendar of meetings with new starting time of 7:30 PM
 - Ms. Butch made a motion with a second offered by Mr. Halka and all in favor to adopt the following calendar of meetings for 2009; beginning with the February 2009 meeting, the start time will change to 7:30 PM; the January 2010 meeting will be held on the second Monday to accommodate for the Township Committee reorganization meeting.

January 5, 2009

February 2, 2009

March 2, 2009

April 6, 2009

May 4, 2009

June 1, 2009

July 6, 2009

August 3, 2009

September 14, 2009

October 5, 2009

November 2, 2009

December 7, 2009

January 11, 2010

- Designation of official newspapers
 - Ms. Pinhas made a motion with a second offered by Mr. Halka and all in favor to continue to utilize both the Asbury Park Press and the Messenger Press as the official Council newspapers.

Correspondence

- *Farmers' Markets Today*: Mr. Romano received the Nov/Dec 2008 issue and passed the magazine around for Council members to review.

Old Business

➤ Farm Market

- Unless notified otherwise, Frankie Bell will continue to be the farm market manager
- The plan for this year is to charge a vendor fee that will cover the cost of the farm market manager
- Vendor fees of \$10, \$15 and \$20/day were discussed as well as charging the fee in advance
- The participation of the Roosevelt CSA as a vendor was discussed
- Mr. Asprocolas will provide a copy of a farm market contract for Council members to review
- The Secretary will prepare a letter to send to potential vendors regarding the start date and vendor fee
- Two Jersey Fresh signs were provided by the Department of Agriculture last year; two additional signs will be obtained for this year's market
- The tentative starting date is Saturday, May 30th

➤ Manure Management

- The Council would like to provide DEP approved manure management service information to help residents comply with the new State regulations.
- Mr. Romano spoke with attorney Lauren Lightman of Duane Davison's office regarding posting approved vendor information on the Council website and PEG channel.
- The agreement between the Township and Cablevision states that advertising is not permitted on the PEG channel.
- Ms. Lightman will investigate any legal issues that would prevent the posting of manure management service information on the Council website and will notify Mr. Romano of outcome.
- Ms. Lightman suggested advertising via the newsletter or a direct mailing to farmers however, not all horse and livestock owners are farmland assessed.
- Mr. Romano will provide Ms. Lightman with a copy of the ordinance that established the Ag Council along with the Council's mission statement and will provide an update on the matter at the February meeting.

➤ Large Animal Emergency Action Plan

- Ms. Butch and Ms. Romano obtained information from Ocean County and shared the information with members of the Township OEM.
- The framework of the Ocean County plan will be used to prepare the Township plan.
- Once a plan is developed, the number of people and the types of positions that will be necessary to support the plan will be determined.

New Business

➤ **Potential Seminars for 2009 include**

- The Large Animal Emergency Action Plan; a seminar may be held towards the end of the year when more progress has been made with the development of the plan.
- Ms. Butch has been appointed to the new Monmouth County Planning Board's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Advisory Committee; a seminar may be held towards the end of the year to provide information from the task force as it pertains to farmers and residents.

➤ **Hunting on Township-owned Property**

- Mr. Jonathan Pinhas was in attendance and questioned if hunting is permitted on the former Lee property; Ms. Butch explained that all necessary permissions and permits were obtained to hunt a certain area of the property to eradicate the beaver population which was causing flooding and trail damage; This was not recreational hunting and at this time, deer hunting is not permitted on the property; deer damage should be documented and reported to the Township.

➤ **Upcoming Meetings/Conventions**

- Mr. Asprocolas informed the Council that he will be attending the 2009 Vegetable Growers Association Convention next week.
- The 2009 NJ State Ag Convention is scheduled for February 2009; the current budget includes expenses for one Council member to attend the convention.
- The 2009 New Jersey Land Conservation Rally will be held on Saturday, March 7th; the Secretary will provide the list of workshops as it becomes available.

Reorganization continued

➤ **Appointments, reappointments and election of officers**

- Nominations for officers can be held at tonight's meeting with the elections to take place at the February meeting.
- Mr. Halka nominated Mr. Romano for Chairman with a second offered by Ms. Pinhas and all in favor; Mr. Romano accepted the nomination.
- Mr. Halka nominated Ms. Pinhas for Vice-Chair with a second offered by Mr. Romano and all in favor; Ms. Pinhas accepted the nomination.
- Voting will take place at the February meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Pinhas with a second offered by Mr. Asprocolas to adjourn the meeting and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher