

Millstone Township
Agricultural Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2009

Ms. Pinhas called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

Present: Asprocolas, Butch (arrived 7:46), Peck, Pinhas

Absent: Halka, Romano

A motion was made by Mr. Asprocolas to approve the January 5, 2009, minutes with a second offered by Ms. Pinhas and all in favor.

Reorganization

- Ms Pinhas announced the following Council appointments and reappointments
 - Reappointment of Mr. Halka, Mr. Romano and Ms. Pinhas for 2 year terms commencing 1/1/09 and ending 12/31/10
 - Appointment of Mr. Randy Peck as Alternate 1 for a 2 year term commencing 1/1/09 and ending 12/31/10
 - Appointment of Mr. Asprocolas as the Millstone Township representative to the Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board for 2009
- Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
 - Mr. Asprocolas made a motion to elect Mr. Romano as Chairperson with a second offered by Mr. Peck; Roll call vote: AYES (3) Asprocolas, Peck, Pinhas; NAYS (0)
 - Mr. Asprocolas made a motion to elect Ms. Pinhas as Vice Chairperson with a second offered by Mr. Peck; Roll call vote: AYES (3) Asprocolas, Peck, Pinhas; NAYS (0)

Correspondence

- *Monmouth County Press Release dated 12/23/08: Greenhouse Gas Reduction committee named: Ms. Butch has been appointed to the committee; discussion deferred until Ms. Butch's arrival*
- *Panhandle Region Plan Collaborative Meeting #3 was held on 1/28/09: discussion deferred until Ms. Butch's arrival*

Old Business

- **Farm Market**
 - The 2008 farm market expense report was reviewed
 - Ms. D'Andrea and attorney Simon Kaufman are preparing a farm market manager fee ordinance

- Signs to advertise the farm market will require Township Committee approval and a sign ordinance; Ms. Butch will ask the TC for recommendations regarding sign size and placement
- Farm market advertisement will include vendor participation in WIC, food stamp and senior farmers market nutrition programs
- Mr. Asprocolas will contact the County regarding listing the Millstone Farm Market in County brochures advertising farm market vendors that accept WIC and Food Stamp vouchers
- The Secretary will distribute flyers at the Millstone schools prior to the opening of the market
- Letters have been sent to last year's vendors and property owners who listed fruit and vegetable production on their 2009 tax year farmland assessment forms to invite them to the March 2nd Council meeting; additional letters will be sent to nursery stock growers, egg and honey producers
- Council members will review the registration package forms with approval of forms to take place at the March Ag Council meeting; the farm market by-laws will be revised to include the vendor fee
- Mr. Asprocolas made a motion to charge a \$15/week vendor table fee
 - The vendor fee will be effective June 1, 2009
 - The fee must be paid monthly, in advance and must be received by the Council Secretary prior to the first Saturday of each month
 - The monthly vendor fee will be based on the number of Saturdays in the given month
 - The fee for vendors who will not be participating in the farm market each week will be based on the number of Saturdays that they have declared in writing at \$15/week and is due monthly, in advance to the Council Secretary prior to the first Saturday of each month
 - The Secretary will provide a list of vendors, who have paid the vendor fee, to the Market Manager each Friday for the following Saturday's market
 - There will be a discount of \$30.00 provided to vendors who sign up and pay for the entire season in advance
 - If a vendor pays the fee in advance for a specific Saturday and the market closes due to inclement weather, the fee for that Saturday will be credited back to the vendor
 - The motion was seconded by Ms. Butch with all in favor

➤ **Large Animal Emergency Action Plan**

- Ms. Maggi Romano provided information regarding a three-day introductory course on disaster animal response training (April 24-26) to be held at Rick's Saddle Shop in Cream Ridge

- Ms. Butch received contact information from the Somerset CART Director; the Secretary will review the Somerset CART website for large animal emergency response brochure information
- **Manure Management**
 - Waste disposal business contact information cannot be posted to the website, PEG or in the OSFP newsletter per attorney Duane Davison's office
 - Ms. Maggi Romano will send information regarding Rutgers' nutrition and waste management seminars to the Secretary for posting to the Ag Council website
 - The Secretary will check rules regarding posting "free manure" on the website trading post
- **Vegetable Growers Meeting**
 - Mr. Asprocolas, Mr. Peck and Ms. Pinhas attended the meeting which was held January 13 through 15
 - A broad range of seminars were offered including production, direct marketing, food safety, pesticides, fungicides and herbicides
 - The Secretary will include the link to the Vegetable Growers website on the Ag Council website
 - Crops covered included cut flowers, small fruits, tree fruits, grain and nursery stock in addition to vegetables
 - Mr. Peck will provide information regarding DEP seminars for pesticide application at the next meeting for a potential Council sponsored seminar
- **2009 NJ State Ag Convention**
 - Mr. Asprocolas and Ms. Pinhas will be attending the convention next week and will provide information at the next meeting
- **2009 NJ Land Conservation Rally**
 - Mr. Romano and Ms. Butch will be attending the rally on March 7th
 - Millstone representatives have been invited to sit at a roundtable discussion of open space and conservation easement stewardship
- **Panhandle Region Plan Collaborative**
 - Ms. Butch updated Council members on the Panhandle Region Plan which consists of four towns: Allentown, Millstone, Roosevelt and Upper Freehold Township
 - The 4 towns discuss common interests, issues and problems including viability of farming, preservation of farmland, animal OEM program, traffic and by-passes and COAH obligations
 - There have been 3 meetings to date which focused on addressing common problems

- The next meeting will be devoted discussing solutions
- The next meeting will be held in Allentown but a date has not yet been established

New Business

- **Farm market vendors invited to the March 2, 2009, Ag Council meeting**
 - The Secretary mailed letters to farmland assessed property owners growing produce; additional letters will be mailed to nursery stock growers
- **Upcoming Events**
 - Mr. Asprocolas announced that the annual Central Jersey Vegetable Meeting will be held in Freehold on Friday, February 6
 - Ms. Romano will provide the Secretary with the Junior Breeders Symposium details for posting to the website

A motion was made by Mr. Asprocolas with a second offered by Ms. Butch to adjourn the meeting and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 9:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher