

Millstone Township
Agricultural Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2009

Mr. Romano called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

Present: (5) Asprocolas, Butch, Halka, Peck, Romano

Absent: (1) Pinhas

A motion was made by Mr. Asprocolas to approve the March 23, 2009, minutes with a second offered by Mr. Halka and all in favor.

Correspondence

- Monmouth County Planning Board, Panhandle Region Plan Meeting #4, dated 4/15/09
 - Ms. Butch attended the meeting which was held on April 30th in Allentown.
 - The plan, objectives, concerns and action items were reviewed.
 - Suggestions for modifications were discussed.
 - The next step will be to hold a public meeting for the public to review the plan and provide comments.
 - The plan will then go back for revisions and is expected to be finalized by the end of fall 2009.
 - After the plan is finalized, it will require approval by each of the panhandle towns and the County.
- Farm Service Agency Service Center Newsletter, dated 4/16/09
 - Farm Bill changes were discussed.
 - The newsletter will be posted on the Council website.
- Stony Brook - Millstone Watershed Association, re: SADC Animal Waste Rules, dated 4/21/09
 - Mrs. Butch pointed out an incorrect statement in the last line of the second paragraph which states "...and include a limit of 7 cows or horses before a Waste Management Plan must be submitted." A plan needs to be written but does not need to be submitted for this limit.
 - The Watershed Association is offering assistance with water quality and stream buffers, but the SADC requires preserved farms to use the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Old Business

- **Farm Market**
 - Kickoff is May 30th.
 - 5 Vendors have completed the registration package.
 - Price quotes for signs were discussed.

- Locations for 4' x 8' signs were discussed to determine how many signs will be needed. Engineering will be consulted regarding road right-of-ways and sight triangles at intersections.
 - The Secretary will write a memo to the Township Committee requesting permission to install Farm Market signs, suggestions for locations and asking that the signs not be removed for the duration of the farm market season.
 - DPW will be consulted regarding sign installation.
 - Mr. Asprocolas made a motion to move forward with the purchase of 24 in-ground signs, 2 single-sided banners and (5) 4' x 8' plywood signs, provided that the plywood signs are \$40 each, otherwise no more than \$200 per sign will be paid, and the Township Committee approves the signs at the May 6th TC meeting. A second was offered by Mr. Halka with all in favor.
 - Samples of the Farm Market green bags were provided for Council members. The green bags will be given out on opening day and will be advertised as "free with purchase, while supplies last".
 - The opening day celebration will be on May 30th and the Township Committee will be invited for a ribbon cutting ceremony.
 - Mr. Peck offered to supply 3 inch potted plants to give away on opening day.
 - Flyers will be distributed to the schools for distribution on Thursday, May 21st.
 - There will be 2 insertions of the advertisement in the Examiner the week of May 18th and again the week on May 25th.
- **Manure Management Flyer**
- 153 flyers were mailed to property owners and farm operators who listed livestock on the 2009 Farmland Assessment forms.
 - The animal waste calculator from Rutgers has been posted to the Ag Council website.
- **Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council's 3rd Annual Clambake Fundraiser**
- Sunday, June 7th at the Clarksburg Inn.
 - 2 Seatings: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm and 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm.
 - Additional volunteers are needed to help at the event.
- **Large Animal OEM Plan**
- Ms. Butch and Ms. Romano attended the Disaster Animal Response Team (DART) training in April. The class was 3 full days in duration with a written test and table top demonstration required at the conclusion. The training was given by the Humane Society of the United States. Both Ms. Butch and Ms. Romano passed and received certificates.

- Ms. Butch and Ms. Romano were also required to take other animal courses and OEM procedure training. Ms. Butch has completed the minimum course requirements and Ms. Romano has two courses left to complete.
- The next step is for Ms. Butch and Ms. Romano to write the Township's animal response team procedure.
- Monmouth County does not have a large animal disaster response plan.
- Mr. Liebowitz offered his facility, once built, for smaller animals and Dr. Palmer has offered his facility for larger animals in the case of a disaster.

New Business

➤ **"Ask the Expert"**

- This topic will be on next month's agenda.

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Halka with a second offered by Ms. Butch to adjourn the meeting and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 9:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher