

**Millstone Township  
Agricultural Advisory Council**

Meeting Minutes  
July 6, 2009

Mr. Romano called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

**Roll Call**

Present: (3) Butch, Pinhas, Romano

Absent: (3) Asprocolas, Halka, Peck

A motion was made by Ms. Pinhas to approve the June 1, 2009, minutes with a second offered by Ms. Butch and all in favor.

**Correspondence**

- Three emails were received requesting farm market vendor registration information; packages were sent.

**Old Business**

➤ **Farm Market**

- Mr. Romano filled in as the farm market manager on Saturday, July 4, and provided an overview:
  - Vendors reported that it was the busiest day since the market opened on May 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - The two vendors who had corn sold out by 11 am.
  - The market is acquiring a number of regular customers.
  - There were three inquiries regarding the availability of baked goods at the market.
- The Council will continue to look into vendors interested in selling baked goods; issues include Health Department regulations and profitability.
- Additional a-frame portable signs have been ordered to direct people to the market from Route 33.

➤ **Large Animal OEM Plan**

- Ms. Butch received information that the Red Cross is trying to put together a 5-hour shelter class to be held over two evenings; two potential dates during the summer were provided. Ms. Butch will provide an update at the next meeting.
- The OEM would like to keep at least one shelter open for animals because the Red Cross does not want to deal with them.

➤ **Impact of Inclusionary Element on COAH Objection**

- The inclusionary element is critical to open space and preservation.

- The residents who wrote the objection want the Township to satisfy 50% of the COAH obligation by using the RUP zone for inclusionary housing.
  - This will freeze all land preservation in the RUP zone until the COAH obligation is met.
  - The SADC and Green Acres will not consider any land for preservation in the RUP zone until the COAH obligation is fulfilled.
  - The COAH obligation does not have to be fulfilled until 2018 for this phase.
  - The Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council voted to send a letter opposing the inclusionary element to the Township Committee.
  - The Ag Council will send a letter to the Township Committee opposing inclusionary zoning because of its impact on preservation.
  - The Secretary will prepare the letter and forward to Council members for review.
- **Millstone Day 2009**
- Will be held on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, at Frogbridge Day Camp from 12 noon to 5 pm.
  - Due to State regulations regarding amusement rides, there will be no mechanical bull ride this year.
  - Ms. Butch will check with the Recreation Commission regarding sharing the inflatable attractions at Frogbridge.
  - Mr. Romano suggested contacting Miss New Jersey, who is a Township resident, regarding representing the Ag Council at Millstone Day.

## **New Business**

- **Potential Fundraiser/Harvest Dinner**
- Mr. Romano suggested holding a harvest dinner as a potential fundraiser.
  - The Presbyterian Church has held the event in the past.
  - Mr. Romano will contact the church to see if they are planning a Harvest Dinner fundraiser this year.
  - Food, excluding meat, would be donated by local farmers.
  - The meat would be purchased and cooks would need to be hired.
  - The event would require many volunteers.
  - Discussion will be continued next month.
- **Impact of Weather on Farming**
- Council members discussed the impact of the weather on farming including the loss of some crops and the delay of crop production and produce availability.
- **Operating Budget**
- Mr. Romano reviewed the Council's operating budget and year to date expenses.

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Pinhas with a second offered by Ms. Butch to adjourn the meeting and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher