

Millstone Township
Agricultural Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2009

Mr. Romano called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

Present: (6) Asprocolas, Butch, Halka, Peck, Pinhas, Romano

Absent: (0)

A motion was made by Ms. Pinhas to approve the October 5, 2009, minutes with a second offered by Mr. Halka. Roll call vote:

Ayes (3) Pinhas, Halka, Butch

Nays (0)

Correspondence: None.

Old Business

➤ **Farm Market Season Review**

- The farm market received more funding this year, however sales were down compared to last year; the market lacks customer loyalty; turnout was low when the weather was bad; Mr. Asprocolas explained that the farm market might not be right for Millstone because Millstone is a farming community and lacks the allure that is present in more urban markets; this was a bad season for farm markets in general due to bad weather.
- Council members discussed the need for a new location with good traffic flow and high visibility if the market is to operate in 2010; potential locations include the municipal building on Stage Coach Road, the soccer fields and the Van Handle or Red Wagon properties on Route 33; the Van Handle and Red Wagon stands were not in operation this past season; Ms. Butch suggested contacting the owners of the Red Wagon and the Van Handle properties to see if either property would be available for the community farm market; Ms. Butch offered to contact the owner of the Red Wagon property regarding the possibility of leasing the site when the current lease expires; the soccer fields might not be a suitable site because the fields are not in use for a portion of the summer; the Secretary will contact the Township Engineer regarding traffic study information in the Township, particularly on Stage Coach Road in front of the municipal building; the Secretary will also check to see if the Township owns any property adjacent to potential COAH sites.

- Mr. Romano suggested loosening restraints on the market; Mr. Asprocolas explained that permitting non-Jersey Fresh produce may make people question the origin of all produce at the market.
 - Mr. Asprocolas explained that the Tri-County Farmer's Co-op in East Windsor is trying to renovate a commercial kitchen; perhaps this kitchen could be used to prepare baked goods for the farm market.
 - The length of the farm market season needs to be reviewed; Mr. Asprocolas explained that the farm market peaks in July and dies out after Labor Day; further discussion will take place next month.
 - A decision regarding sponsoring the farm market in 2010 will be made in February.
- **Former Lee Property Lease Extension**
 - The current lease has been extended through June 30, 2010.
- **Review roster to determine which terms expire in 2010**
 - Ms. Butch and Mr. Asprocolas have terms that expire on December 31, 2009.
 - The first meeting in 2010 is scheduled for January 11, which is after the Township Committee reorganization meeting.
 - Ms. Butch explained that the Agricultural Advisory Council is mandated in order to receive State funding for Farmland Preservation; the majority of the Ag Council members must be active farmers that own a portion of the land they farm; the Secretary will provide Council members with copies of the ordinance that created the Ag Council.
- **Election Day/Public Question #1: Green Acres, Water Supply and Floodplain Protection, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2009**
 - Mr. Romano reminded Council members that there is a question on tomorrow's ballot regarding funding for open space.
 - The money is allocated and earmarked for specific uses and cannot be re-directed for other uses or used to balance the budget.

New Business

- **Budget for 2010**
 - The budget report for 2009 (through September) was reviewed; the bulk of the budget was spent on farm market advertising.
 - The 2010 budget will be discussed at the November 2nd Council meeting and a draft will be submitted to Mrs. D'Andrea.
- **Calendar of Meetings for 2010**
 - A draft meeting schedule was distributed for Council review.

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 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher