

# Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes  
January 11, 2010

Ms. Pinhas called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

## Roll Call

Present: (5) Asprocolas, Butch, Dancer, Peck, Pinhas

Absent: (1) Halka

## Reorganization

### ➤ Appointments

- Resolution No. 10-40 reappoints Ms. Butch to seat no. 1 for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2010 and ending December 31, 2011.
- Resolution No. 10-40 reappoints Mr. Asprocolas to seat no. 5 for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2010 and ending December 21, 2011.
- Resolution No. 10-40 appoints Mr. Dancer to fulfill Mr. Romano's unexpired term which ends December 31, 2010.
- Resolution No. 10-27 appoints Mr. Dancer as the 2010 Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board (MCADB) Representative; the Secretary will send a copy of the resolution to Harriet Honigfeld with Mr. Dancer's contact information; Ms. Butch explained that the MCADB meets on the first Wednesday of the month and that attendance is important because it relates to the portion of money that the County allocates for land preservation within the Township; Ms. Butch will contact Mayor Grbelja regarding naming Mr. Asprocolas as an alternate representative.

### ➤ Election of Officers

- Ms. Butch suggested postponing the election of officers until the February meeting due to Mr. Halka's absence; Mr. Romano, who had chaired the Council for the past three years, resigned from the Council effective December 31, 2009; Ms. Butch suggested sending Mr. Romano a letter from the Council thanking him for his years of service and leadership; the Secretary will prepare the letter and distribute via email for Council review.

### ➤ Adoption of the Meeting Schedule

- Ms. Butch made a motion to adopt the following 2010 schedule of meetings, which includes the first meeting on 2011:

January 11, 2010	August 2, 2010
February 1, 2010	September 13, 2010
March 1, 2010	October 4, 2010
April 5, 2010	November 1, 2010
May 3, 2010	December 6, 2010
June 7, 2010	January 10, 2011
July 12, 2010	

A second was offered by Mr. Asprocolas; Roll call vote:  
 Ayes (5): Butch, Asprocolas, Dancer, Peck, Pinhas  
 Nays (0)  
 Abstain (0)

➤ **Designation of Official Newspapers**

- Ms. Butch made a motion to designate the Asbury Park Press and the Messenger Press as the Council's official newspapers; a second was offered by Mr. Asprocolas; Roll call vote:  
 Ayes (5): Butch, Asprocolas, Dancer, Peck, Pinhas  
 Nays (0)  
 Abstain (0)

Ms. Pinhas explained that Ordinance 05-11, which created the Ag Council, states that meetings shall not be mandatory for the months of July and August.

**Approval of Minutes:** tabled.

**Correspondence**

- USDA Farm Service Agency Service Center Newsletter dated December 14, 2009
  - The newsletter was distributed for review; it has also been posted on the Ag Council website.

**Old Business**

➤ **Farm Market**

- Ms. Butch will contact the owner of the Red Wagon property to inquire about the current lease expiration date and to request to be contacted by the property owner when the lease comes up for renewal; the farm market stand portion of the property was not in operation during the 2009 season; if the Township cannot lease the entire site, the lessee might be willing to donate just the stand portion of the property for the community farm market.
- The Secretary will send a letter to the Township Committee asking them to consider the municipal building parking lot on Stage Coach Road and the Brandywine Soccer Fields as potential sites for the community farm market for 2010.
- The Van Handle Farm Market was not in operation during the 2009 season; this may be a potential site for the community farm market; there may be a fee to lease the site.

- Ms. Pinhas asked Mr. Asprocolas to provide his thoughts on the continuation of the farm market; Mr. Asprocolas stated that the market needed to find a better location that has greater visibility; Ms. Butch mentioned that it may be possible to have a farm market stand in conjunction with a preserved farm.
- **Former Lee Property Lease Extension**
  - Ms. Butch provided an update on the status. The parameters have been reviewed by the Mayor and forwarded to attorney, Simon Kaufman. When the lease is finalized, it will be submitted to Municipal Clerk, Maria Dellasala, to be sent out for the bidding process. The target date for the lease to be finalized is January 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Secretary will post notification of the availability of the lease packages on the Council website and on the PEG channel.
- **Large Animal OEM Plan**
  - Ms. Butch provided an update; OEM Coordinator Ken Gann would like to stage a mock disaster, including an animal component, in the near future to be held at Wagner Farm Park; Ms. Butch has completed requirements and is now certified; the next step is to contact and meet with groups that will be partners in the OEM Plan; the Red Cross does not want to be involved with animals; the Salvation Army and the Humane Society are willing partners; an OEM plan for the Township will need to be written. Ms. Butch will check to see if the OEM plan is an open public document.
- **Animal Waste Management Plan (AWMP)**
  - The plan is being phased in in stages.
  - Mr. Dancer is working in conjunction with Freehold Cartage on recycling; Ms. Butch suggested that Mr. Dancer contact the County to advertise in the County's recycling newsletter.
- **Budget for 2010**
  - The 2009 operating budget with expenses through December was distributed for review.
  - Mr. Romano had previously provided the preliminary 2010 budget via email to the Secretary, which was forwarded to the Land Use department head, Pam D'Andrea, for the 2010 budget process.
  - The 2010 budget will include funding for farm market advertising, signs and flyers, three newsletters and postage expense, education funding for seminars and Millstone Day expenses.
- **New Jersey Vegetable Growers Convention**
  - The Vegetable Growers Convention begins tomorrow, January 12<sup>th</sup>; Mr. Asprocolas, Mr. Peck and Ms. Pinhas will be attending the convention; any pertinent information from the convention will be posted to the Ag Council website.
- **Outstanding Young Farmer**

- The nomination form is posted on the Ag Council website; the submission deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup>; the winner will be announced at the Ag Convention in February.

### **New Business**

- **2010 New Jersey State Agriculture Convention**
  - Will be held on February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at the East Brunswick Hilton; the State Department of Agriculture website contains a contact name, phone number and email address but there are no convention details available on the website as of today; as soon as details are available, they will be posted on the website.
- **Ag Council Confidentiality Agreement**
  - Previously, Ag Council members had signed the Confidentiality Agreement that was created for the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council; the confidentiality agreement has been updated specifically for the Ag Council and has been approved by attorney, Simon Kaufman.
  - Ms. Butch explained that one of the key roles of the Ag Council is to recommend farms for preservation.
  - Council members in attendance reviewed and signed the confidentiality agreement.

### **Next Meeting**

- The next Ag Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 1, 2010.

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Asprocolas with a second offered by Mr. Peck to adjourn the meeting and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher