

# Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2010

Mr. Halka called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

## Roll Call

Present: (5) Asprocolas, Butch, Dancer, Halka, Peck, Pinhas (arrived 7:51 pm)

Absent: (0)

## Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Asprocolas with a second offered by Mr. Halka to approve the April 5, 2010; with all in favor, the minutes were approved.

## Correspondence

There was no correspondence to discuss.

## Old Business

### ➤ Community Farm Market

- The farm market opened on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at its new location, the municipal parking lot on Stage Coach Road.
- Mr. Asprocolas received positive feedback from his son and daughter who attended the market. They feel the market will do well this season.
- The former farm market manager, Ms. Bell, has not returned this year due to health related issues. The Land Use department head, Mrs. D'Andrea was the acting market manager and provided a written report of the market activities and estimated that 65 customers attended the market. The report was provided to Council members for review.
- Council members discussed the market manager position, job responsibilities, advertising for the position and compensation. It may only be necessary to have someone open and close the market (unlock and lock the trailer for bathroom and hand washing facilities) with a Council member on call if any issues arise. The market manager does not have to be a municipal employee.
- A summer intern will begin an internship with the Land Use Department on May 21. Mrs. D'Andrea would like to offer the market manager position to the intern with a flat pay of \$60.00 per Saturday. A resolution will be needed for the appointment. Mrs. D'Andrea is looking for volunteers to open and close the market for the next 2 Saturdays: May 8<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Council members discussed Board of Health (BoH) inspections. Mr. Peck explained that the BoH is primarily concerned with prepared foods and that produce and food products are not displayed on the ground. In the past, the health inspector has checked the temperature in the cooler

- used for storing eggs. Mr. Asprocolas utilizes a scale which is registered with, and subject to inspection by, the Bureau of Weights and Measures.
  - The Secretary will send out an email tomorrow regarding having a Council member "on-call" for the market.
- **Former Lee Property Farm Lease:** The lease has been awarded; this item will be removed from the agenda.
- **Large Animal OEM Plan:** The new OEM Coordinator is Committeeman Mike Kuczinski.
- **Animal Waste Management Plan (AWMP):** There is nothing new to discuss; this item will be removed from the agenda going forward.
- **Non-life Hazard Fire Inspection for S-1 and S-2 Buildings:** Ms. Butch has spoken with C/Kuczinski, the liaison to the fire department, about the fire inspection fees. C/Kuczinski supports the State's position of exempting farms from the inspection fees and he will discuss this item with the Township Committee.
- **Use & Permits for Propane Gas on Agricultural Businesses:** Mr. Asprocolas explained that a Township farmer has been told by the fire department that he needs special permits for propane storage. The farmer has contacted the Mayor regarding the situation. Ms. Butch suggested that the farmer contact Karen Kritz of the Department of Agriculture, who has been very helpful in resolving a variety of issues that have affected local farmers.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Clambake Fundraiser** will be held on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, at Wagner Farm Park. Anyone interested in volunteering or purchasing tickets should contact Council Secretary, Lori Maher, at [L-Maher@millstone.nj.us](mailto:L-Maher@millstone.nj.us) or 732-446-4249 x 1103.

## **New Business**

- **Millstone Day** will be Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, from 12 noon to 5:00 pm, at Frogbridge Day Camp. Various agricultural-related ideas were discussed. Mr. Dancer offered to bring tractors for display, weather permitting. The Secretary will contact the Recreation Secretary regarding reserving an area for the tractor display.
- **The Van Handle Farm Stand** on Route 33 has been leased to Mr. Guinco of Wemrock Orchards. Mr. Asprocolas was contacted by Ron Goode of the Department of Agriculture regarding necessary permits for the farm stand. Mr. Guinco should contact the Township Zoning Officer, Pat Hynes, regarding registering the business and any necessary permits or licenses.
- **Ordinance 10-10:** Ms. Butch explained that Ordinance 10-10 had its first reading at the April 7<sup>th</sup> TC meeting. This ordinance would require every residential or commercial building to obtain a new Certificate of Occupancy each time there is a change in ownership or occupancy. Ms. Butch suggested that the Ag Council submit a request to the Township Committee to exempt commercial

farm buildings from this ordinance. The costs associated with this ordinance would create a financial hardship on farmers, especially those with farm labor housing. Millstone is supposed to be a farm-friendly community and ordinances that are passed should be good for farming. Ms. Butch spoke with Ms. Kritz who suggested requesting an exemption for "commercial farm building" which would include all labor housing and any buildings utilized for a farm manager. A new CO would only be required when the business is sold rather than when there is a change in labor/employees. Council members agreed that commercial farm buildings should be exempt from this ordinance. The Secretary will compose a letter to the Township Committee requesting an exemption for commercial farm buildings from the ordinance.

### **Next Meeting**

- The next Ag Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 7, 2010.

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Pinhas with a second offered by Mr. Dancer to adjourn the meeting and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher