

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2010

Ms. Butch called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

Present: (4) Butch, Dancer, Peck, Pinhas (arrived 8:02 pm)

Absent: (2) Asprocolas, Halka

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the May minutes was postponed to the June meeting.

Correspondence

- **Monmouth County Planning Board dated 5/4/10, Countywide Wastewater Management Plan (WMP):** Ordinance 10-18 (Riparian Zone Ordinance) was introduced at the 6/2/10 Township Committee (TC) meeting; Ms. Butch has concerns regarding the impact of this ordinance on farmers and the Right-to-Farm; the Secretary will send out the entire ordinance to the Council for review; Ms. Butch explained that an article appeared in a recent issue of the Examiner about a water quality report compiled by the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association; samples collected from sites in Millstone indicate a decline in water quality; Township Environmental Engineer, Ms. Spaziano, performed a site inspection of Showplace Farms, which had a problem with runoff of animal waste; Ms. Butch explained that the State regulates animal waste; Mr. Peck explained that freshwater wetlands maps have areas designated as "PC zone" (Prior to Conversion) and that farming is permitted in PC zones. Ms. Butch asked Council members to research State regulations regarding this topic; Ms. Butch will seek guidance from the MCADB regarding language for the ordinance and will send a list of the Council's concerns to the Township attorney.

Old Business

- **Community Farm Market:** Ordinance 10-16, establishing the Farm Market Manager rate of pay, was introduced at the May 19th Township Committee meeting.
- **Large Animal OEM Plan:** Millstone is one of the only municipalities that is putting together a plan; both the Equine Clinic and Shelly's School for Dogs have offered to participate as emergency facilities.
- **Non-life Hazard Fire Inspection for S-1 and S-2 Buildings:** Ms. Butch submitted a request to put this on the agenda for the executive session of the June 16th TC meeting.

- **Use & Permits for Propane Gas on Agricultural Businesses:** Mr. Alex Davino notified Ms. Butch that the issue with the propane tanks seems to have been resolved; Ms. Butch explained that permits are maintained at the State level.
- **Compliance with Millstone Property Maintenance Code:** The original ordinance was pulled and re-written; the Ag Council's requested changes were incorporated in the new ordinance, Ordinance 10-17, which was introduced at the June 2nd TC meeting and is expected to be adopted next month.
- **4th Annual Clambake Fundraiser** was held on Sunday, June 6th, at Wagner Farm Park; approximately 135 tickets were sold; complete financials are not available yet; the food was delicious, particularly the corn, which was provided by Mr. Asprocolas.
- **Millstone Day** is scheduled for Sunday, September 19th, from 12 noon to 5:00 pm, at Frogbridge Day Camp. The Ag Council's tractor display idea was discussed at the May 27th Open Space Council meeting; the OS Council liked the idea and suggested having a small area for tractor ride-on toys for children; Ms. Butch asked Mr. Dancer if he could provide one tractor to be used for picture taking; Mr. Dancer agreed.

New Business

- **Seminar ideas:** Ms. Butch has spoken with Karen Kritz of the Dept of Ag, who has offered to present a seminar on any farm-related topic that the Council chooses; Ms. Butch suggested a seminar on farm vehicles; Council members agreed on the topic; Ms. Butch will contact Ms. Kritz to set up a seminar date in January (2011), which will be the off-season for farmers.
- **July 12th and August 2nd meetings:** The July and August meetings are not mandatory; effective June 14th, Mr. Asprocolas, Mr. Peck and Ms. Pinhas will be working at the Co-op on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through October; Ms. Butch suggested changing the meeting day to Tuesday for the July, August, September and October meetings; The Secretary will check the meeting room availability for Tuesday evenings.
- **Farmland Assessment Forms:** The Secretary will post a notice on the Ag Council website to remind farmers that the deadline for filing Farmland Assessment forms with the Tax Assessor is August 1, 2010.
- **Low Hanging Trees/Limbs and Wires:** Mr. Jonathan Pinhas was in attendance and explained that he was referred to the Ag Council by the TC regarding a complaint about the numerous low hanging tree limbs and wires in town that are hazardous to farm equipment; Mr. Pinhas explained that State law requires a 15 foot clearance over roadways and 14 foot clearance over driveways for wires; Council member discussed difficulties they had with getting the utility companies to fix low-hanging wires; Mr. Pinhas requested clarification regarding who is responsible for trimming low hanging tree branches over roadways; Ms.

Butch will follow up with Simon Kaufman and Karen Kritz regarding the low-hanging wires and trees.

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 8:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher