

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2010

Ms. Butch called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

Present: (3) Butch, Dancer, Peck

Absent: (3) Asprocolas, Halka, Pinhas

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Peck with a second offered by Mr. Dancer to approve the August 3, 2010, meeting minutes. Roll Call vote:

Ayes (3) Peck, Dancer, Butch

Nays (0)

Correspondence

- **August 18, 2010, Farm Service Agency Newsletter:** The Secretary did not have copies available at the meeting but will forward to Council members via mail/email. Mr. Peck asked if the newsletter contained information regarding the EQIP application program and expressed concern that he did not receive information about the deadline until after it had passed.

Old Business

- **Community Farm Market:** The farm market closed for the season as of Saturday, September 5th. The remaining two vendors sited the high cost of purchasing produce and low customer turnout for closing the market earlier than planned. Council members discussed alternative formats for the market such as:
 - Having a larger market less often, perhaps once per month.
 - Holding the market around events that draw a large number of people such as the Memorial Day Parade, the annual Fishing Derby, Millstone Day and recreation events such as sports tournaments.
 - Council members agreed that the market needs more vendors with a greater variety of products. The date, time and location of the market may need to be changed. The farm market discussion will continue next month.
- **Large Animal OEM Plan:** Nothing new has transpired since last month because the OEM did not meet during the month of August. Mr. Peck inquired about the next steps to be taken in the creation of the plan. Ms. Butch explained that once Shelley's School for Dogs is built, the facility will be able to house cats and dogs in the case of an emergency. A location for horses is needed. Ms. Butch has spoken with Dr. Palmer about the availability of the NJ Equine Clinic in the case of an emergency but a second location may be necessary. A list of supplies that

will be needed in an emergency must be compiled. Some supplies must be purchased in advance to have on hand and purchasing agreements must be in place to commandeer supplies needed at the time of the emergency. A contact list of veterinarians that can be called during an emergency must be compiled. A plan must be written. Millstone must develop its own plan because the County does not have a small and large animal plan that can be modeled. The Red Cross is only involved with people during disasters and there is controversy over housing animals with people due to allergic reactions. The Salvation Army supports having shelters for people and animals.

- **Non-life Hazard Fire Inspection for S-1 and S-2 Buildings:** Ms. Butch will contact Mr. Kuczinski to discuss a proposal. While farms would need to comply with inspections, the proposal would be to follow the State model and not charge farm operations the inspection fees.
- **Ordinance 10-18, Riparian Zone Ordinance:** The adopted ordinance included the Ag Council's requested exemptions. The Secretary distributed copies of the adopted ordinance.
- **Millstone Day** is scheduled for Sunday, September 19th, from 12 noon to 5:00 pm, at Frogbridge Day Camp.
 - Ms. Butch met with Frank Pugliese Jr. regarding the tractor display. Three options for the location were discussed. Mr. Dancer and Ms. Butch will meet at Frogbridge to determine the best location. There will be about 16 tractors ranging from the 1950s to the 1980s. The Secretary will make a sign for each tractor based on information to be provided by Mr. Dancer.
 - Mr. Asprocolas will donate apples to be distributed; Mr. Peck may have sugar pumpkins to donate.
- **Ag Council Sponsored Seminar:** Ms. Butch has booked Karen Kritz, of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, for Monday, January 10, 2011. The topic will be motor vehicle rules and regulations related to farming and farm vehicles. Ms. Kritz is willing to add topics provided she is knowledgeable of the topic. The State Police will be invited to attend. An announcement about the seminar was made at the last County Ag Board meeting. The seminar will be open to the public.
- **Low Hanging Wires:** The Environmental Engineer, Lisa Spaziano, attended the July 28th Shade Tree Commission meeting and reported that the utility company attended the meeting to discuss tree trimming throughout the Township. The utility company will only be trimming high branches around the power lines. The utility company work will not have any effect on the low hanging branches and farm vehicles.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Dancer with a second offered by Mr. Peck to adjourn the meeting and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher