

# Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2010

Mr. Asprocolas called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

## Roll Call

Present: (3) Asprocolas, Butch, Dancer

Absent: (3) Halka, Peck, Pinhas

## Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Butch with a second offered by Mr. Dancer to approve the September 7, 2010, meeting minutes. Roll Call vote:

Ayes (2) Butch, Dancer

Nays (0)

## Correspondence

- **Farm Service Agency Newsletters:** The August 18<sup>th</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup> newsletters were distributed. It was noted that the newsletters did not contain any information regarding the EQIP program. The Secretary will contact the NCRS office to obtain information about the EQIP program and deadline dates.

## Old Business

- **Community Farm Market:** Mr. Asprocolas explained that farm market sales declined each week. While the farm market had some loyal customers, there were not enough sales to keep the market going. Advertising was good but the market didn't draw enough customers. Council members discussed various options for the market such as changing the day and/or time, opening the market once a month or in association with other town events. Mr. Asprocolas explained that most community farm markets are in the center of a town and that farm markets are not successful when held in conjunction with other events because people are not attending the event to purchase produce. There will be competition with the Hightstown market if the day/time is changed to Friday evenings. Ms. Butch offered to contact the owner of the Red Wagon property if Council members are interested in leasing the location. Input from Mr. Peck and Ms. Pinhas will be sought and further discussion is required.
- **Large Animal OEM Plan:** Ms. Butch, Mr. Kuczinski and other members of the OEM group are scheduled to attend a one-day gas pipe emergency workshop in Lakewood.
- **Non-life Hazard Fire Inspection for S-1 and S-2 Buildings:** Ms. Butch has spoken with the Township Committee regarding exempting farmers from the inspection fees. Farmers would not be exempt from the inspections. Ms. Butch has spoken with the Farm Bureau and the Department of Agriculture and neither

agency is aware of any other town that charges farmers for the inspection fees. An ordinance amendment or a resolution may be required.

➤ **Millstone Day Review**

- The apples that were provided by Asprocolas Acres were a big hit but we ran out early; could use more apples next year.
- The tractor display was impressive; Mr. Dancer agreed to coordinate a display next year; suggestions for next year include adding an antique car display and having a more educational display of the tractors such as showing how tractors work; the Township manages the Lichtman property, which is directly across the street from the entrance to Frogbridge; the property might be available for the display; permission from the State would be required. Mr. Asprocolas suggested coordinating the display with the FFA.

➤ **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 Secretary will prepare an announcement and notice for the newspapers. The seminar will be videotaped and run on the PEG channel.

➤ **Low Hanging Wires:** Mr. Asprocolas explained he contacted utility, cable and phone companies about low hanging wires in Roosevelt. While the companies came out to check the wires, nothing was done to raise them. The wires were fixed only after they had come down completely.

**New Business**

➤ **Meeting Schedule for 2011:** The Secretary distributed the following list of potential meeting dates:

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

In the past, meetings have been scheduled for the first Monday of the month. The January meeting has been set for the second Monday to accommodate for the Township Committee reorganization meeting. The July and September meetings are listed on the second Monday to accommodate for the Independence Day and Labor Day holidays.

Mr. Asprocolas, Mr. Peck and Ms. Pinhas are members of the Hightstown Farmers' Co-op which meets on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from July through October. Council members discussed changing the meeting day to avoid conflict with the Co-op. Further discussion required.

- **Historic Church:** Ms. Butch announced the following:
  - There will be an open house at the historic church on Stage Coach Road on Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. There will be entertainment and refreshments will be served.
  - The Clarksburg Methodist Episcopal Church is on the National Register of Historic Places.
  - The Township has submitted a grant for repair work; the interior of the building is in relatively good condition but work is needed on the exterior.
  - The building is not used to its potential; currently the Mayor performs marriage ceremonies in the Clerk's office at the municipal building and she would like to begin using the church for marriages; one drawback is that the building does not have bathroom facilities.
  - An interfaith service is being planned for December.

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Butch with a second offered by Mr. Dancer to adjourn the meeting and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher