

# Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes  
November 1, 2010

Mr. Halka called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

## Roll Call

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

Absent: (1) Dancer

## Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Asprocolas with a second offered by Ms. Butch to approve the October 5, 2010, meeting minutes. Roll Call vote:

Ayes (2) Asprocolas, Butch

Nays (0)

**Correspondence:** There was no correspondence to discuss.

## Old Business

- **Community Farm Market:** The farm market was not as profitable as it should have been. The customer base dwindled over the course of the season. Changing the location of the market did not help to increase customer turnout or sales. The market will continue if a location can be secured that will have a big customer draw.
- **Large Animal OEM Plan**
  - The OEM is looking for an outline of the large animal plan to include in their plan so that they can forward the plan for certification.
  - Ms. Butch attended a class regarding pipeline disasters. The Township needs to determine the number and location of pipelines that run through town.
- **Non-life Hazard Fire Inspection for S-1 and S-2 Buildings**
  - Ms. Butch wrote a letter to the Township Committee explaining that farm operations are life hazard operations and should be exempt from inspection fees.
  - Committeeman Kuczinski presented the request to exempt agricultural operations from the inspection fees to the fire department. The fire department explained that they were enforcing the ordinance that was adopted by the Township Committee. The fire department had presented the information for the ordinance to the TC and the TC passed what the fire department had requested.
  - The ordinance will be changed. Two readings are required and the ordinance is expected to be passed by January 2011. Ms. Butch will look into how often the life hazard inspections will occur.

- The fire department can charge property owners a penalty of \$500.00 for not completing and returning their survey within the 30 day deadline. Currently, the surveys are not mailed at a designated time each year and property owners don't know when to expect the surveys in the mail.
  - Ms. Butch suggested that all fire department surveys be mailed once each year with the Farmland Assessment forms so that farmers know when to expect to receive the surveys and when the completed forms are due back to the fire department. Ms. Butch also suggested that the surveys state in bold print the deadline date for completion and the penalty/fine if not completed and returned by the designated deadline date.
- **Ag Council Sponsored Seminar**
- Karen Kritz of the Department of Agriculture will present information on motor vehicle rules and regulations related to farming and farm vehicles. Ms. Butch will contact Ms. Kritz and will notify the Secretary regarding additional discussion topics.
  - The Secretary will prepare advertisements for the Examiner and Messenger Press; notification will be sent to the Ag Council email list and to all farmland assessed property owners.
  - The Secretary will invite the State Police, the Township Committee, Zoning Officer Patrick Hynes and Construction Official Mickey Martin.
- **Low Hanging Wires**
- The utility companies have fixed downed wires; however, low hanging wires and tree branches are still an issue for some farm equipment.
  - This may be a topic to discuss with Karen Kritz.
- **Meeting Schedule for 2011:** Council members discussed meeting dates and agreed on the following schedule for 2011:
- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| January 10, 2011 | July 12, 2011     |
| February 7, 2011 | August 2, 2011    |
| March 7, 2011    | September 6, 2011 |
| April 4, 2011    | October 4, 2011   |
| May 2, 2011      | November 7, 2011  |
| June 6, 2011     | December 5, 2011  |
- The July through October meetings are scheduled for Tuesdays to accommodate for the Tri-County Cooperative Market meetings.
- **Historic Church:** Ms. Butch provided the following information:
- An open house is scheduled for Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.
  - The term "chapel" may be used instead of "church" because the building has been de-blessed and has no congregation.
  - There are serious structural issues and no bathroom facility on site. Ms. Butch is working on two separate grants for repairs and restoration. A capital campaign is being initiated.

- The Township is looking into advertising the church for events such as weddings. Income generated from renting the facility will go into maintaining the building.
- Ms. Doreen Polhemus has been named Steward of the church.

### **New Business**

- **Budget and Goals for 2011:** Council members reviewed the 2010 budget and expense report. Items to include in the 2011 budget include the newsletter, farm market advertising and education/seminar expenses.
- **Farm Leases**
  - *Lichtman:* Ms. Butch announced that the Management and Use Agreement for the Lichtman property on Yellow Meeting House Road has been signed. The farm lease will go out to bid. There is a significant deer issue and Ms. Butch suggested providing the Township Committee with a list of deer resistant crops for the lease.
  - *Lee Farm:* Ms. Butch was at the site and the fields have been plowed beyond the 30 foot buffer that is designated in the farm lease. The Township is aware of and will be addressing this issue.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher