

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2010

Mr. Asprocolas called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

Present: (3) Asprocolas, Butch, Pinhas

Absent: (3) Dancer, Halka, Peck

In attendance: Kate Halka

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Butch with a second offered by Ms. Pinhas and all in favor to approve the November 1, 2010, minutes.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence to discuss.

Old Business

- **Community Farm Market:** Discussion tabled.
- **Large Animal OEM Plan:** Nothing new to report.
- **Non-life Hazard Fire Inspection for S-1 and S-2 Buildings**
 - Ordinance No. 10-30 was adopted at the 12/1/10 Township Committee meeting. The Secretary will send a copy of the Ordinance to farmer Joseph Davino.
 - Karen Kritz, of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, provided a list of items subject to inspection by the Fire Department. According to the NJ Department of Community Affairs, farm buildings are exempt from registration and inspection fees.
 - Ms. Kritz also provided literature which states that if a local enforcing agency gives a farmer a Fire Safety Registration Survey, rules specify that it must be completed and submitted within 30 days. Failure to submit the document carries a \$500.00 fine. Ms. Butch emphasized the importance of relaying this information to farmers.
- **Ag Council Sponsored Seminar**
 - Council members reviewed the flyer. A memo will be sent to the Township Committee, the New Jersey State Police, Construction Official, Mickey Martin, and the Zoning Officer, Patrick Hynes, inviting them to attend the seminar. Ms. Butch will contact Mike Maloney of the Fire Department regarding the seminar.
 - Community bulletin board announcements have been sent to the Messenger Press and the Examiner. The Secretary will email the flyer to the MCADB for distribution as well as the Ag Council email distribution

list. The flyer will also be mailed to property owners and farmers listed on the 2011 farmland assessment forms. Flyers will be posted at appropriate businesses in Millstone and the surrounding area.

- The seminar will be videotaped and broadcast on the PEG channel. The question and answer session will not be taped.
- The reorganization meeting will take place after the seminar.

➤ **Low Hanging Wires**

- Jon Pinhas now has a contact at Jersey Central. The utility companies may be more responsive to complaints about low-hanging wires since the tragic accident in South Jersey that left two farmers dead. The farmers were operating a combine that came into contact with a power line.

➤ **Historic Church**

- Ms. Butch explained that approximately 70 people attended the open house in November. There was musical entertainment and the acoustics were great. Music teachers have expressed interest in renting the building.
- State representatives conducted a site visit on 12/6/10 in conjunction with the grant application. A subsequent visit will be done to inspect the church steeple. Grant award decisions will be made in January with award notification in March 2011.

➤ **Farm Leases**

- *Lichtman*: Ms. Butch has been communicating with the State regarding the Management and Use Agreement. The State must approve all decisions regarding use of the property. A farm lease is anticipated for spring of 2011. There will be restrictions including a 30 foot buffer around the fields.
- *Perrineville Road*: The Secretary will provide Council members with the lease expiration date.

➤ **Budget and Goals for 2011**

- Council members reviewed the 2010 budget and expense report. It was determined that there is budget to cover the mailing for the January 10th seminar.
- The 2011 budget request will include a note that there will be a spring newsletter to be published in May.
- Council membership to organizations, such as the Vegetable Growers Association, was discussed. The Council would need to derive some benefit from the membership. The Vegetable Growers convention will take place in Atlantic City on January 11, 12 and 13, 2011. It was determined that information on the convention can be posted to the Ag Council website and since individual members of the Council are already members of the Association, Council membership is not necessary at this time.

New Business: There was no new business to discuss.

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Pinhas with a second offered by Ms. Butch to adjourn the meeting and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher