

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2011

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

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

Present: (3) Butch, Halka, Peck

Absent: (3) Asprocolas, Dancer, Pinhas

Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Ms. Butch with a Second offered by Ms. Halka to approve the May 2, 2011, minutes.

Ayes: (2) Butch, Halka

Nay: (0)

Correspondence

- **New Jersey Farm Bureau** dated 5/31/11 re: Motor Vehicle Rules. The letter commends the Ag Council for seeking to change the Sunday and holiday travel restriction for farm and agriculture vehicles. The NJFB will publicize the matter in their weekly newsletter.
- **New Jersey Farm Bureau** newsletter dated June 19, 2011: The "Ag Motor Vehicle Change" was publicized in the NJFB newsletter.
- **New Jersey Farm Bureau June 2011 Legislative Review** dated 6/7/11: The Motor Vehicle Commission will meet on Tuesday, June 7th, to vote on amending rules about farm equipment and hours of operation. Look for publication of those rules in the August 1st New Jersey Register.
- Council members discussed the issuance of two tickets to a Halka employee for only having one plate on a Farm Use registered vehicle and not having a current inspection. Ms. Halka contacted the MVC and pulled information from their website regarding the issuance of only one plate for Farm Use vehicles and inspection exemptions for agriculture vehicles.

Old Business

- **Large Animal OEM Plan:** Nothing new to report.
- **Low-hanging wires and tree branches:** Nothing to report.
- **Farm Leases:** The Township is working with the State on the Lichtman farm lease.
- **Sunday and holiday travel restriction:** Discussed under correspondence.

New Business

- **Millstone Day** will be held on Sunday, September 18th, at Frogbridge Day Camp. Council members discussed alternative ideas for an activity or display if Mr. Dancer is unable to coordinate the tractor display.
- **Open Space Acquisitions**
 - The Perl Acres closing is expected by Millstone Day and will include a 25 acre preserved farm and a 17 acre open space parcel to protect the Doctor's Creek waterway.
 - The Wagner Farm appraisals have been certified and the contract is being negotiated. After a contract is signed, grant applications can be completed. A grant application will be submitted for the Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant with a potential grant amount of \$250,000. Green Acres funding is available for 50% of the project cost. The project was presented to the Monmouth Conservation Foundation for potential funding of \$50, 000 to \$100,000.
- **2011 Budget:** The Township adopted the budget. A finance report with the budget and expenses to date was distributed for review. There is funding for a newsletter that will be distributed after the next open space closing.
- **Email from Karen Kritz re:** Secretary of State review of state and local agency-issued business permits. Ms. Butch asked Council members if they are aware of any duplication of government processes having to do with agriculture that can be eliminated. Council members discussed Department of Agriculture, fire department, health department and weights and measures inspections. The Secretary will notify Ms. Kritz of the overlap between the Department of Ag and fire commissioners' inspections and confusion about fees charged for inspections and permits.

Having no further business to discuss, a Motion was made by Ms. Halka with a Second offered by Ms. Butch to adjourn the meeting and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher