

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2011

Mr. Asprocolas called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

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

Absent: (1) Halka

Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Ms. Butch with a Second offered by Mr. Dancer to approve the February 7, 2011, minutes.

Ayes: (4) Asprocolas, Butch, Dancer, Peck

Nays: (0)

Correspondence: None.

Old Business

- **Large Animal OEM Plan:** The large animal OEM plan needs to be written and incorporated into the OEM book. Dr. Palmer has volunteered the Equine Clinic facility for large animals and Mr. Leibowitz has volunteered Shelly's School for Dogs, when built, to house small animals in the event of an emergency.
- **Low-hanging wires and tree branches:** The DPW will be doing some clearing and trimming before trees leaf out. The Secretary will contact the County regarding tree trimming on County roads in Millstone. Council members should provide the Secretary with the location of low-hanging branches.
- **Farm Leases:**
 - Perrineville Road: The current lease expires 12/31/11. Bids for the three-year lease will be going out this year.
 - Millstone Park: An application has been submitted for a depredation permit to control the geese problem on the leased farmland.
- **Sunday and holiday travel restriction:** The Secretary mailed the letter to Secretary Fisher on 2/8/11; a response has not been received. Council members agreed that another letter needs to be written and sent to the Motor Vehicle Commission with copies sent to the Department of Agriculture, the Farm Bureau and the Farm Family insurance company. Karen Kritz may be able to provide the name of the appropriate person at Motor Vehicles. The letter should state that Sunday mornings are the safest time to move farming equipment and there are great concerns that farmers are on roadways illegally.
- **Agriculture License:** Significant progress has been made.

- **2010 Ag Council Accomplishments:** Changes discussed last month were incorporated and the list has been sent to the Township Committee.

New Business

- **State Agriculture Convention:** Mr. Asprocolas provided a brief update on the convention. Hot topics this year included equine, farm labor and solar energy.
- **Letter to Mr. Halka:** The Secretary will prepare a letter to Mr. Halka thanking him for his service and dedication to the Council; the letter will be forwarded to the Council for review.
- **Farm Market:** Three farm market vendors were in attendance: Marion Healy, Mavis Swerdel and Petronio Zalamea. Mr. Asprocolas explained that there is a lack of community support and the farm market cannot proceed this year unless a better location is secured or more vendors commit to participating. Alternatives to the once per week market were discussed such as a one-day event or linking the market with other town events such as the fishing derby or Millstone Day. Mr. Asprocolas suggested maintaining a list of interested vendors who can be invited to set up a table at special events. Alternate locations were discussed including the Red Wagon, Van Handle and Millstone Deli properties on Route 33. Mr. Peck and Mr. Asprocolas discussed the possibility of farm market vendors selling at the Tri-County Co-op in East Windsor on weekends. Mr. Asprocolas will discuss the weekend farm market at the next Co-op meeting.

At 8:29 pm, Ms. Pinhas made a Motion to move to executive session with a Second offered by Mr. Dancer, and all in favor.

At 8:42 pm the Council returned to regular session. 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 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher