

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2012

Mr. Peck called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

Present: (3) Butch, Halka, Peck

Absent: (3) Asprocolas, Dancer, Pinhas

Public Comment: No public in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Ms. Halka with a Second offered by Ms. Butch to approve the July 3, 2012, minutes with all in favor:

Ayes: (3) Halka, Butch, Peck

Nays: (0)

Correspondence

- Ordinance No. 12-14, Indemnification of Municipal Officers and Employees, adopted 8/15/12: Clarifies that those volunteering to serve the Township Government are entitled to indemnification; provides protection from lawsuits.

Old Business

- **Large Animal OEM Plan:** The OEM is trying to get someone from the State to provide direction on how to write a working, local plan. The County has a plan but it is not a good basis for writing a municipal plan.
- **Farm Leases:** The current three year farm lease at Millstone Park expires 7/31/13. The bid packages for the next three year lease are scheduled to be put together by the end of the year and should go out by March 2013. Some of the land will be pulled out of the lease as park development progresses.
- **Horse Keeping Businesses and New Jersey Sales and Use Tax:** Nothing new to report.
- **Agriculture Museum:** Volunteers were at the museum today and another trip is scheduled for Thursday to transport additional items. The Krueger collection received final authorization and most items have already been moved from the museum. Millstone was offered the windmill that stands in front of the museum. The Township Committee approved the acquisition of the windmill but the terms are still being negotiated. The windmill will be placed at the Baird Homestead and will be used to pump water to the greenhouse.
- **Community Map Fundraiser:** This is a fundraiser for the Friends group. Ads are still being purchased and the publication date is anticipated for December 2012.

New Business

- **Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant:** The grant is being written for the development of the Thomas Baird property including re-erecting the barn and carriage house from the Allen property; installing the windmill at the site; concrete floors for the Allen barn and carriage house and installation of electric at all three outbuildings: the pole barn, Allen barn and carriage house. The grant will also include the installation of an ADA bathroom. The total development cost is \$365K of which the 50% matching grant would provide \$182.5K. The Friends group will be asking the Township Committee to take the remaining 50% of the development cost out of the Open Space Tax Levy. A pre-application meeting was held with a County representative and positive feedback was received regarding the development project. The public hearing for the grant application occurred today with all eleven attendees in favor of moving forward with the project. Currently, the Ag Council has approximately \$23K, from the clambake fundraisers, to fund dismantling the Allen barn and carriage house; an additional \$10K to \$13K will be needed to dismantle both buildings. The plan is to re-erect the carriage house at the Baird Homestead and use it to house both the blacksmith and collar shops from the NJ Ag Museum. The barn will be used to house items around the perimeter with an open area in the center for demonstrations and educational programs.

Ms. Butch made a Motion to ask the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council to provide the additional funding needed to dismantle both the Allen barn and carriage house. A Second was offered by Mr. Peck. Roll call vote:

Ayes (3) Butch, Peck, Halka

Nays (0)

Ms. Butch made a Motion to write a letter from the Ag Council in support of the project and as a participating organization of the project for the Municipal Open Space Grant application. A Second was offered by Ms. Halka. Roll call vote:

Ayes (3) Butch, Halka, Peck

Nays (0)

Upcoming Events

- **Millstone Day** is scheduled for Sunday, September 23rd, at Frogbridge Day Camp. The Ag Council, Historic Commission and Friends group will be in one common area. Weather permitting, items from the Ag museum will be displayed. Educational material from the museum, including a cider press, may be used for apple cider tasting.

Having no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Halka with a Second offered by Ms. Butch and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher, Council Secretary