

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2013

Mr. Asprocolas called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

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

Absent: (1) Pinhas

Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Mr. Dancer with a Second offered by Mr. Peck to approve the January 7, 2013, minutes; with all in favor, the Motion was carried.

Public Comment: No public in attendance.

Correspondence: No correspondence.

Old Business

- **OEM Issues:** Ms. Butch has been given the task of locating a place to fill containers with potable water for animals during emergency situations; the site would require a well and a generator. Mr. Asprocolas questioned whether Millstone has any shared service or reciprocal agreement with Roosevelt regarding animals during emergencies. At this time there is no shared service agreement, but this may be addressed now that Roosevelt has a farm with 10 bison.
- **Farm Leases**
 - Millstone Park: The current lease expires July 31, 2013. Lease terms were discussed including the end date of July 31. This date, as opposed to December 31, was originally set to avoid issues with crop removal and to ensure that a cover crop is planted to prevent soil erosion. Only certain crops can be planted during the final year of the lease due to the lease expiration date. Extending the lease term from three to five years will benefit the farmer by providing additional years of productivity with only the final year crop limited by the July 31st end date. An open auction, as opposed to a sealed bid process, was also discussed. Council members agreed that the five year lease term and the open auction will benefit the Township by drawing higher bids. The Municipal Clerk will request soil test results from the current lessee. If the pH is below the range set in the lease, the lessee is responsible for liming the fields prior to the lease expiration date. It would be in the Township's best interest to perform soil testing prior to lease expiration to ensure the results accurately reflect the condition of the entire farm lease area. Ms. Butch explained that the current lease specifies that if land will be pulled out of the lease for park development, the farmer is to be notified by April

1st; the lease does not specify how much time the farmer has to remove the crop. Council members discussed Federal regulations that address farmers' legal rights to harvest their crops. Council members also discussed arranging all municipal farm leases so that they have the same term and start and end dates. Ms. Butch will present Council recommendations regarding the lease to the Township Committee.

- Perrineville Road: The current lease expires July 31, 2015.
 - Lichtman Property: The Management and Use Agreement and farm lease bid specifications were forwarded to the State for review but have not been returned yet.
- **Horse Keeping Businesses and New Jersey Sales and Use Tax**: Nothing new to report.
 - **Baird Homestead Project & Millstone Agriculture Museum**: The Township received insurance money for Hurricane Sandy damage to the greenhouse. Mr. Peck will assist with ordering materials for the greenhouse repairs. Mr. Asprocolas will recruit FFA students to assist Mr. Dancer with setting up the Agriculture Museum. Council members discussed sponsorships for tractor restorations and involving Allentown High School agriculture mechanics students in restoration projects. The donated Allis Chalmers tractor will be the first restoration project; Mr. Dancer offered to donate the paint if the AHS ag mechanics students want to take on the restoration project.
 - **Community Map Fundraiser**: The project is almost complete. The cover is being re-worked and the map is almost ready to go to the printer.
 - **Monmouth County Open Space Grant**: The grant was awarded. Work will begin with laying foundations for the buildings and installation of the ADA bathroom. All contracts must go through the bid process. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for next week.

New Business

- **Upcoming Events: Clambake**

The Open Space Council hasn't discussed the annual clambake fundraiser yet. If the Open Space Council doesn't want to hold the fundraiser this year, the Friends group may be interested in the clambake to assist with the Baird Homestead expenses.

Having no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Dancer with a Second offered by Ms. Butch and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher
Council Secretary