

# Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2013

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

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

## Roll Call

Present: (5) Asprocolas, Butch, Peck, Pinhas, Mayor Grbelja (7:41 pm)

Absent: (2) Dancer, Posten

## Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Mr. Peck with a Second offered by Ms. Butch to approve the March 4, 2013, minutes.

AYES: (4) Asprocolas, Butch, Peck, Pinhas

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Public Comment:** No public in attendance.

**Correspondence:** No correspondence.

## Old Business

- **OEM Issues:** Mayor Grbelja, Ms. Butch and Ms. Romano met to discuss a large animal OEM plan and Ms. Butch will type the document and present it to OEM. The County will provide a water buffalo that can be transported to farms to provide water for animals during emergencies. A potable water source needs to be obtained and an agreement with the property owner must be formalized. The plan outlines a list of supplies that will be needed including lead lines, halters, buckets, feed and hay.
- **Farm Leases**  
Millstone Park: The current lease expires on July 31, 2013. The lease has been changed to a five-year term (August 1, 2013, to July 31, 2018) and will be an open auction bid. The lease start and end dates, August 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>, will not change. The farm lease will be advertised by the Purchasing Agent.
- **Horse Keeping Businesses and New Jersey Sales and Use Tax:** Nothing new to report.
- **Baird Homestead Project & Millstone Agriculture Museum**  
Greenhouse: The Township received an insurance reimbursement for the hurricane damage to the greenhouse. Mr. Peck met with Ms. Butch to compile a list of items required for the repair work and choose the best vendor for the necessary supplies.  
Landscape Committee: The landscape committee is looking to plant native species in the wetland areas to replace trees that have fallen. Mr. Peck will donate

Golden Weeping Willow trees for the planting. Mr. Asprocolas and Mr. Peck will coordinate taking down hazardous trees.

Morton Building Bathrooms: Ms. Butch explained that two ADA bathrooms are required and discussed three different scenarios. When pricing estimates come in, an option will be chosen for bathroom installation. Soil compaction tests will be ordered this week.

Friends of MTHRP: There is a Friends meeting on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm at the Baird House and all Council members are invited to attend.

- **Community Map Fundraiser**: The map is complete and will be sent to the printer this week.

## **New Business**

- **Upcoming Events: Clambake**

The clambake date has been set for Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm. Tony Romano of the Open Space Council will be chairing the event this year which will be co-sponsored by the Ag Council. Mr. Asprocolas will be providing his grill, with tents in case it rains, and will also provide the produce. Mr. Asprocolas will also ask FFA students to assist with bussing tables.
  - **Farmland Preservation Plan**: Millstone's Farmland Preservation Plan must be submitted to the SADC every year. The plan states that input from the Agricultural Advisory Council is required and Ag Council members' names are listed on the annual submission. Ms. Butch reviewed the State legislation which states that the Ag Council is the advisory council for the farmland plan; one of the requirements is that more than 50% of the advisory council's members must own and farm land in the Township. The farmland preservation advisory council should be reviewing farmland preservation applications and prioritizing farms. Currently, the Open Space Council has been reviewing and voting on applications however, there are only two farmers on that council. The State legislation is being reviewed to determine which Council, the Agricultural Advisory Council or the Open Space Council, should be advising the Township Committee regarding farmland preservation applications.
  - **Meeting with Governor's Aide**: Mayor Grbelja announced that she is meeting with the Governor's aide tomorrow and asked Council members if there are any issues that they would like her to address at the meeting. Council members discussed the following issues related to farming and agriculture:
    - Motor vehicle issues including the 16-year old agricultural driver's license.
    - Motor vehicle accidents involving slow moving farm tractors.
    - An agriculture exemption for increases to the minimum wage; the current bill does not include an agriculture exemption and prohibits New Jersey from being competitive with neighboring states that have the exemption.
    - The need for a guest worker program; the current program is cumbersome and takes too long.
    - Funding for the New Jersey Agriculture Experiment Station; agricultural agents and specialists are needed especially for nursery and fertility.
- The New Jersey Farm Bureau compiled a comprehensive list of hot topics. Ms. Butch will forward the list to the Mayor.

Having no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Pinhas with a Second offered by Ms. Butch and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher  
Council Secretary