

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2013

Mr. Peck called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

Present: (3) Butch, Peck, Posten

Absent: (3) Asprocolas, Dancer, Pinhas

Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Ms. Butch with a Second offered by Mr. Peck to approve the April 1, 2013, minutes.

AYES: (2) Butch, Peck

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Public Comment: No public in attendance.

Correspondence: No correspondence.

Old Business

- **Large Animal OEM:** Nothing new to report.
- **Farm Leases**
 - Millstone Park: The five-year lease for the period August 1, 2013 through July 31, 2018, was awarded to Carmine Infante, LLC.
 - Lichtman: This lease will be done in conjunction with the State.
- **Horse Keeping Businesses and New Jersey Sales and Use Tax:** Nothing new to report.
- **Baird Homestead Project & Millstone Agriculture Museum:** The septic tank has been installed and has been inspected by the Health Department. The well for the windmill has been drilled. A good quote was received for connecting the domestic well by the greenhouse to other buildings on the property. The house will have a water treatment system. The bid has been advertised for the bump-out of the Morton building and the bathrooms will be connected to the house septic system. The architect is preparing drawings for the building foundations. An exemption from the bid process has been received from the State for re-erecting the historic barn and carriage house. Bids will be advertised for roof, siding and electrical work. The *Friends* landscaping committee is working on taking down dangerous trees and planting golden willow trees that have been donated by Peck Farms. The *Friends* group was planning a fall fundraiser this year but there were conflicts with Pop Warner regarding the availability of the Wagner Farm Park facility.
- **Clambake Review:** Council members reviewed the clambake financial report.

New Business

- **Millstone Day** will be held on September 22nd at Frogbridge Day Camp from 12 noon to 5:00 pm. The Ag Council will have a table with the *Friends* group, the Historic Commission, the Open Space Council and the Trailblazers. Ms. Pinhas will provide hay bales and cornstalks; Mr. Asprocolas will donate apples to be given out and the Ms. Butch will provide a giant pumpkin for the "Guess My Weight" contest.
- **Right to Farm complaint:** The Township has received several complaints about a farm located on Stillhouse Road. The Township cannot issue a summons and violations cannot be heard in municipal court for farmers who claim right to farm protection. The Right to Farm Act protects commercial farms and farmers must provide proof that they meet the criteria to be considered a commercial farm. A complaint has been submitted to the Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board. There are public health and safety issues with the farm including inadequate fencing resulting in animals wandering onto neighboring properties and onto Stillhouse Road. There doesn't appear to be a breeding program and whether or not the animals have been properly inoculated is unknown. Harriet Honigfeld of the MCADB has requested information from the property owners regarding commercial farm qualification. The County is asking the owners to provide proof of income and will be looking for the farm's manure management plan. Ms. Butch has extended a verbal invitation to the property owners to attend a Township Ag Council meeting to assist them with contacting appropriate agencies for help with their animals and with resolving issues with neighbors. The Secretary will send a letter to the owners inviting them to the October 1st Ag Council meeting.
- **Mullery Farm:** The County inspected the preserved farm after receiving complaints about ATV usage. There were dirt paths with hills, which the owner claimed were for horses. The owners were issued a letter instructing them to remove the dirt paths and return the property to farmland. The property has since been sold but the case is still open. The Ag Council needs to be informed of any issues with Township farms, particularly preserved farms. The County is supposed to inspect preserved farms once each year.
- **Teller Klein Farm:** The preserved farm was recently sold and the new owner has requested information regarding farm buildings and manure management. Ms. Butch will invite the new owner to an Ag Council meeting as well as to a County Board of Agriculture meeting.

Having no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Posten with a Second offered by Ms. Butch and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher
Council Secretary