

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2014

Mr. Asprocolas called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

Present: (6) Asprocolas, Butch, Dancer, Peck, Pinhas, Posten (7:34 pm) &
Committeewoman Grbelja

Absent: (0)

Approval of Minutes

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

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Public Comment: No public in attendance.

Reorganization

➤ Appointments

- Resolution No. 13-19: Appointing Patricia Butch to seat number 1 and George Asprocolas to seat number 5; both appointments are for two-year terms commencing 1/1/14 and ending 12/31/15.
- Resolution No. 13-20: Appointing Tom Dancer as the Millstone Township representative to the Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board for the year of 2014.

➤ Election of Officers

- Ms. Pinhas made a Motion to nominate Mr. Asprocolas for Chairman with a Second offer by Ms. Butch. Mr. Asprocolas accepted the nomination. No other nominations were made. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

- Ms. Pinhas made a Motion to nominate Mr. Peck for Vice Chairman with a Second offer by Ms. Butch. Mr. Peck accepted the nomination. No other nominations were made. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

➤ Adoption of Meeting Schedule for 2014

Ms. Butch made a Motion to adopt the following schedule of meetings for 2014 and the first meeting of 2015 with a Second offered by Ms. Pinhas and with all in favor the Motion was carried.

January 13, 2014**

February 3, 2014

March 3, 2014

April 7, 2014

May 5, 2014

June 2, 2014
July 7, 2014
August 4, 2014
September 8, 2014**
October 6, 2014
November 3, 2014
December 1, 2014
January 12, 2015**

** Meeting on the second Monday of the month to accommodate for the Township Committee reorganization meeting and the Labor Day holiday.

➤ **Designation of Official Newspapers**

Ms. Pinhas made a Motion to designate the Asbury Park Press and the Messenger Press as the Council's official newspapers with a Second offered by Mr. Dancer. With all in favor, the Motion was carried.

Correspondence

- **Official Ballot for FSA Committee Elections:** There is only one candidate listed on the ballot. Ms. Butch made a Motion with a Second offered by Mr. Peck to vote for John Hauser. The Secretary will check the appropriate box and will sign and mail the ballot on Tuesday morning.

Old Business

- **Large Animal OEM Plan:** Ms. Butch has a list of items that will be needed in an emergency and is awaiting authorization from Mr. Kuczinski to purchase the items.
- **Farm Leases:** Neither of the Township's farm leases expire this year.
- **Horse Keeping Businesses and New Jersey Sales and Use Tax:** Assemblyman Dancer is sponsoring legislation (A-4479) to do away with the sales tax on stall rentals and he will be a featured speaker at the Horse Boarding & NJ Sales Tax Workshop to be held on Sunday, January 19th, at Rick's Saddle Shop in Cream Ridge. New sales tax legislation went into effect in 2006 and the Division of Taxation has been visiting horse farms and issuing bills for back taxes and penalties for sales tax on horse stall rentals. The language in the current legislation is ambiguous and changes regarding the collection of sales tax were not well advertised. Surrounding states do not charge sales tax for horse boarding. Committeewoman Grbelja explained how the current interpretation of the legislation is affecting local horse boarding businesses.
- **Baird Homestead Project**
The bid has been awarded for the pole barn addition which will include an ADA bathroom and an office area.

The Friends group will discuss fundraising ideas for covering operating expenses at their next meeting. The brick fundraiser is ongoing and has been expanded to include options to purchase 4" x 8" and 8" x 8" pavers.
- **Commercial Farm Certification Form:** The completed and approved certification form helps with right-to-farm protections.

New Business

- **New Jersey Farm Bureau Membership:** Access to the Farm Bureau's website is limited to members. Mr. Peck made a Motion with a Second offered by Ms. Posten to submit a membership application form, for the Ag Council, to the New Jersey Farm Bureau for an Associate Membership at \$60.00. With all in favor, the Motion was carried.
- **Farmland Preservation Process:** The Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council was created when the State's farmland preservation program began and the

Open Space Council was the original group that handled both farmland preservation and Green Acres open space applications. The legislation changed in 2008 at which time it was determined, by the State, that the agricultural advisory committee is the municipal group responsible for directing the farmland preservation program and advising the governing body regarding farmland preservation applications. The legislation states that agricultural advisory committees shall have at least three, but not more than five, members who are residents of the municipality with the majority of the members actively engaged in farming and owning a portion of the land they farm. Millstone Township's Agricultural Advisory Council conforms to these requirements. As a result of the Township's most recent farmland preservation application submission, the Township received an Affidavit of Agricultural Advisory Committee Verification form which must be signed by the Agricultural Advisory Council Chair, notarized and submitted to the State with the application. The verification form states that the Agricultural Advisory Council has reviewed and approved the farmland preservation application and has performed a site inspection of the property. Mr. Asprocolas cannot sign the verification form because the application was reviewed, and the site inspection was performed, by the Open Space Council not the Ag Council. The application is, at this time, incomplete and the process is pending a determination by the Township Committee regarding the assignments of each Council's responsibilities in the preservation process for farmland and open space. Both Councils act in an advisory capacity and only the Township Committee has the authority to approve the expenditure of money. The Secretary will email the SADC Municipal PIG Grant Eligibility section of the New Jersey Administrative Code and the Affidavit of Municipal Agricultural Advisory Committee Verification to all members of the Township Committee for review.

Mr. Peck made a Motion with a Second offered by Ms. Pinhas for the Agricultural Advisory Council to accept the responsibility of reviewing and approving farmland preservation applications and performing site inspections at the time the Township Committee modifies its ordinance to come into compliance with state legislation governing Municipal Planning Incentive Grant eligibility. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

- **State Agriculture Convention & NJ Vegetable Growers Convention:** The Council has money in its budget for education. Ms. Butch explained that Council members can submit receipts for reimbursement for registration and other expenses related to convention attendance. Ms. Butch will work with Ms. D'Andrea to submit necessary paperwork. Council members discussed some of the topics that will be discussed at each of the conventions.
- **Young Farmers & Ranchers Program:** The program is starting up again and is being funded by the Farm Bureau. Ms. Posten has been appointed as the County Board of Agriculture Alternate.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorraine Maher
Council Secretary