

# Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2014

Mr. Asprocolas called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

## Roll Call

Present: (4) Asprocolas, Butch, Peck, Posten

Absent: (2) Dancer, Pinhas

**Public Comment:** Mr. Asprocolas opened the meeting to public comment at 7:39 PM. Gerry and Lloyd Kromann, 815 Perrineville Road, were in attendance and explained that they were interested to learn if the Township would be maintaining its rural character. Council members explained that the Ag Council supports maintaining Millstone's rural character and discussed the goals of the Ag Council, the upcoming election and ballot question regarding a permanent source of open space funding and the status of Township's preservation program.

## Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Mr. Peck with a Second offered by Ms. Butch to approve the September 8, 2014, minutes with one revision requested by Ms. Butch to note in the minutes that Committeewoman Grbelja is the Township Committee liaison to the Agricultural Advisory Council.

AYES: (2) Peck, Butch

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

## Correspondence

There was no correspondence presented at the meeting.

## Old Business

- **Large Animal OEM Plan:** Nothing new to report.
- **Farm Leases:** Nothing new to report.
- **Horse Keeping Businesses and New Jersey Sales and Use Tax:** Nothing new to report.
- **Fall Harvest Festival:** The festival will be held on Saturday, October 25th, from 12:30 to 3:30 PM. Mr. Asprocolas's son, James, will bring a tractor and wagon for hay rides. A minimum trail width of 12 feet is required for turns. The ride will go through the 40-acre open space property across from Wagner Farm Park. Ms. Butch explained that the parking area was mowed today and a request has been submitted to have the trail area mowed. Overflow parking will be available at the Middle School. The State Police and DPW will assist with street crossing. If it rains, the school will be used for the event and there will be no hay rides or petting zoo. Admission is \$5.00 and the roast pig dinner will be an additional \$10.00. There will be a food truck as well. The school art club made "head-in-the-hole" plywood cutouts for photographs. Ms. Butch showed Council members pictures of the students' excellent artwork. Demonstrations will include how to make apple butter and how to spin wool. Other activities include face painting, pumpkin decorating and a tour of the Baird House. The Friends group has been bearing all the monthly utility costs and funds raised

through the festival will help to offset operational expenses. Sponsors have not been solicited however, the Friends group received two \$500 checks from businesses.

- **Baird Homestead Project:** There have been two break-ins at the Baird Homestead since construction began. The first break-in involved the theft of copper wire that is being used for the installation of electricity in the pole barn, barn and carriage house. The second break-in involved the theft of copper pipes which were cut out of the basement of the house. A security system will be installed at the property.
- **Farmland Preservation Process:** The Council will be going into executive session to discuss the current farmland preservation application. Ms. Butch provided an overview of the farmland preservation process and the open space tax levy and trust fund.
- **NJ Agricultural Experiment Station Board of Managers Nomination Process:** There is nothing new to report. The next meeting will be held in December.
- **Newsletter:** There hasn't been any progress with the production of the newsletter. There may not be sufficient time to produce and distribute a newsletter prior to Election Day.

**New Business:** No new business was discussed.

At 8:26 PM a Motion to move to executive session was made by Ms. Butch with a Second offered by Ms. Posten. At 8:54 PM, the Council returned to open session and having no further business to discuss, a Motion was made by Mr. Peck with a Second offered by Ms. Posten to adjourn and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorraine Maher  
Council Secretary