

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2015

Mr. Asprocolas called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

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

Absent: (1) Dancer

In Attendance: Committeewoman Grbelja (8:00 pm)

Public Comment: No public in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Mr. Peck with a Second offered by Ms. Butch to approve the October 6, 2014, minutes.

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Reorganization

➤ Appointments

- Resolution No. 15-19: Appointing Tom Dancer to seat number 2, Randy Peck to seat number 3, Kate Posten to seat number 4 and Shirley Pinhas as Alternate 1; all appointments are for two-year terms commencing 1/1/15 and ending 12/31/16.
- Resolution No. 15-20: Appointing Tom Dancer as the Millstone Township Representative to the Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board for 2015.

➤ Election of Officers

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

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

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

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

➤ Adoption of Meeting Schedule for 2015

Council members reviewed the meeting schedule. Ms. Posten made a Motion to adopt the following schedule of meetings for 2015 and the first meeting of 2016 with a Second offered by Ms. Butch. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

January 12, 2015
February 2, 2015
March 2, 2015
April 6, 2015
May 4, 2015
June 1, 2015

July 6, 2015
August 3, 2015
September 14, 2015
October 5, 2015
November 2, 2015
December 7, 2015
January 11, 2016

➤ **Designation of Official Newspapers**

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

AYES: (5) Peck, Posten, Asprocolas, Butch, Pinhas
NAYS: (0)
ABSTAIN: (0)

Correspondence

- **Farmland Assessment, Understanding the Changes for 2015:** An information meeting, co-sponsored by the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture and the New Jersey Farm Bureau, will be held on Thursday, January 22, at the Monmouth County Ag building in Freehold. The meeting is free to NJFB members and \$20.00 for non-members. The speaker will be Mr. Robert Bruch, who spoke at an educational seminar in 2007 that was sponsored by the Ag Council. There are significant changes for 2015. The meeting has been advertised on the PEG channel and the Township website.

Old Business

- **Large Animal OEM Plan:** Funds have been encumbered to purchase supplies. Ms. Butch and Ms. Romano will shop this week for the approved list of supplies which will be stored on the second floor of the court building. Access to the supplies during an emergency will be through the OEM office.
- **Farm Leases:** The lease for the Perrineville Road farm expires on July 31, 2015. The Secretary will post bid information on the website so that potential bidders have sufficient time to complete the necessary paperwork.
- **Horse Keeping Businesses and New Jersey Sales and Use Tax:** The bill passed in the House and is now with the Senate. The Senate does not have an agriculture committee which makes it difficult to get bills passed.
- **Fall Harvest Festival:** Ms. Butch reported that the Harvest Fest was a huge success. The main purpose of the event was to get the community out and prices were set to break even rather than to make money. The event brought in \$4,000.00 and over 300 people attended the event. Over 400 pieces of art were hung in the greenhouse for the art contest which was held for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. House tours were given and Bonnie McFee portrayed Eleanor Baird. This will be an annual event and next year there will be more character portrayals and a possible "blacksmith challenge".
- **Baird Homestead Project:** The pole barn addition is almost complete. The New Jersey Barn Company is in the process of power washing and cutting new pieces for the Allen Barn and carriage house. Portions of the two buildings will be pre-assembled and the barn will be raised in the spring. Some utility poles have been removed from the property as electric and gas lines have been installed underground. Committeeman Masci was instrumental in the acquisition and installation of a security system at the site. Mr. Peck covered the greenhouse and used felt wrapping to prevent future tears. Some landscaping was done around the house for the Harvest Festival. Additional landscaping will be done when remaining

utility poles are removed and the parking area has been designated. Ms. Posten offered to donate trees. Ms. Terry is coordinating the Master Gardeners and has compiled a list of native landscaping materials.

- **Farmland Preservation Process:** There has been some confusion about the process since the Affidavit of Agriculture Committee Verification was received from the State and Ordinance 14-02 was adopted by the Township Committee. Some members of the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council were upset that the OSFP Council was not kept apprised of the status of the application even though the OSFP Council voted early on to move the application forward. The Township Committee wants the OSFP Council involved in the process and wants the Ag Council to work in conjunction with the OSFP Council.
- **NJ Agricultural Experiment Station Board of Managers Nomination Process:** The nomination process has been resolved and will not change thanks to political officials and the State Ag Board. Ms. Butch compiled "area of expertise" information by county and presented the information to the Board of Governors. Going forward, the Board of Managers will be able to recommend a name for every search committee.
- **Newsletter:** There were no newsletters published in 2014 and Ms. Butch has withdrawn from the newsletter committee. It would be nice to do a newsletter when the current farmland preservation project and Green Acres project are complete. These two properties total approximately 220 acres and this is the last of the allocated preservation funding. The referendum question on November's ballot passed however, it will be between eighteen months and two years before the funds will be available. The allocation of the funds among the various programs has not yet been determined. The next newsletter may only be published electronically to save on the cost of printing and postage. Volunteers need to step forward to write articles. Ms. Pinhas suggested including an article about her daughter who is the recipient of a National FFA scholarship.

New Business

- **2014 Council Accomplishments:** Council members reviewed the draft list of accomplishments and discussed items to add to the list. The Secretary will update the list and will distribute to the Township Committee.
- **Monmouth County Board of Agriculture:** Ms. Butch announced that she is now the President of the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture and the Board of Ag will be hosting a Hazelnut Tour on August 12, 2015. Ms. Butch discussed the hazelnut shortage, disease resistant hazelnut trees and hazelnut production.
- **Goals & Budget for 2015:** Council members reviewed the list of operating expenses for 2014 and discussed goals for 2015. A budget request will be submitted for 2015 and will include the following items:
 - Advertising for legal/public notices and seminars
 - Annual Farm Bureau associate membership fee
 - Education and travel for attendance at the State Ag Convention, Vegetable Growers Convention and the Annual Land Rally
 - Promotional items for Millstone Day to promote agriculture
 - Budget for newsletter
- **Open Space Trust Activity Report:** The report was distributed via email prior to the meeting with hardcopies available for review at the meeting. Ms. Butch requested that the Secretary provide this information to Council members every month.

- **Pesticide Container Recycling Program:** Ms. Butch announced that there is a pesticide container recycling program and the location for Monmouth County is the Rutgers Research Center in Cream Ridge. The Secretary will forward information to Council members and will post the program details on the website.
- **Farmland Preservation Update:** Ms. Butch provided a summary of the current farmland preservation application. The property owner's attorney had a conflict of interest with the Township and has stepped down. A new attorney has been hired by the property owner and the Township attorney sent the contract to the new attorney for review and signature. When the signed contract is returned, the Township can move forward with the acquisition.

At 9:10 PM, having no further business to discuss, a Motion was made by Ms. Pinhas with a Second offered by Mr. Peck to adjourn and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorraine Maher
Council Secretary