

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2015

Mr. Asprocolas called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

Present: (4) Asprocolas, Butch, Peck, Pinhas (7:43 PM)

Absent: (2) Dancer, Posten

In Attendance: Committeewoman Grbelja

Public Comment: No public in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Ms. Butch with a Second offered by Mr. Asprocolas to approve the May 4, 2015, minutes. Roll call vote:

AYES: (2) Butch, Asprocolas

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Correspondence: No correspondence was presented.

Old Business

- **Large Animal OEM Plan:** Nothing new to report.
- **Farm Leases:** The Perrineville Road Farm Lease has been awarded to Robert Forman who bid \$2,400 for the three-year period of August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2018. There was one other bid, submitted by Frank Hom, in the amount of \$1,500.
- **Baird Homestead Project:** No report provided.
- **Farmland Preservation Process:** This is something that will take some time to go through. Council members will need to review the legislation, the municipal process that had been in place and the form that needs to be completed for the SADC. The Secretary had emailed to Council members: the State legislation, the old process document and the SADC application which contains the Affidavit of Agricultural Advisory Committee Verification form and will bring hardcopies of all of the documents to the next Ag Council meeting. Council members agreed that the legislation and application requirements should be reviewed in advance of a discussion and agreed to dedicate the November meeting to discussing the process and the Ag Council's role in the process.
- **Newsletter:** No discussion.
- **Open Space Trust Activity Report:** The 2015 report for the period January through June was distributed for Council review.
- **Farmland Preservation Update:** The Kaut project is moving forward. The survey is underway and when it is complete, the closing package will be prepared.
- **Clambake Fundraiser:** Council members reviewed the financial report noting that this was a good year and sponsorships were up but the price of seafood also increased.

- **Millstone Day** will be held on Sunday, September 13th, at Frogbridge Day Camp. Mr. Asprocolas will donate apples and some produce for the Ag Council table.
- **Hazelnut Twilight Meeting:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, August 13, in New Brunswick and remaining spots are open to all farmers.
- **Wildlife Management on Farms Next to Parkland:** This topic is on hold until after the growing season.

Pending Legislation

- **Horse Keeping Businesses and New Jersey Sales and Use Tax:** Nothing new to report. Assemblyman Dancer is one of the sponsors of this bill. Committeewoman Grbelja will contact him regarding the status of the legislation.
- **Soil Disturbance / SADC Regulations:** The SADC is reviewing feedback received from the State Board of Agriculture's ad hoc committee regarding soil disturbance on preserved farms. Ms. Butch is on the ad hoc committee and explained that the SADC will most likely come back with a counter proposal on the regulations. The ad hoc committee was extremely effective on this topic and will stay intact to review future SADC regulations regarding soil disturbance on preserved farms.

New Business: No new business was discussed.

At 7:55 PM, Ms. Butch made a Motion with a Second offered by Mr. Peck to move to executive session; with all in favor, the Council moved to executive session to discuss land acquisitions.

At 8:07 PM the Council returned to open session. A Motion was made by Ms. Butch with a Second offered by Mr. Peck to express the Council's support to the Township Committee in favor of the State farmland preservation acquisition discussed in executive session. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

ABSENT: (2) Dancer, Posten

The Secretary will forward the Council's comments regarding the farmland preservation project to the Township Committee.

At 8:09 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 8:09 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorraine Maher
Council Secretary