

**Millstone Township  
Agricultural Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes for March 29, 2017**  
470 Stage Coach Road, Millstone Township, NJ 08510

Mr. Asprocolas called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

**Roll Call**

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

Absent: (2) Posten, Pinhas

In attendance: Committeewoman Grbelja (arrived 8:40 pm), Kelly Scott of the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council

**Public Comment:** Opened and closed at 7:33 PM with no public in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes**

A Motion was made by Ms. Butch with a Second offered by Mr. Peck to approve the January 30, 2017, minutes. Roll call vote:

AYES: (3) Butch, Peck, Asprocolas

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

A Motion was made by Mr. Asprocolas with a Second offered by Mr. Dancer to approve the February 27, 2017, minutes. Roll call vote:

AYES: (2) Asprocolas, Dancer

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Correspondence**

- Letter from SADC dated 3/7/17 re: Grant Funding for Deer Fencing on Preserved Farms - Correction. The application deadline has passed. Council members discussed grant eligibility and the application requirements.
- Letter from SADC dated 3/22/17 re: Deer Fencing Program - Limitation to Preserved Farms. The program is limited to preserved farms because it is funded by a portion of the state's corporate business tax dedicated to open space, farmland and historic preservation and stewardship.
- New Jersey Farm Bureau received 3/20/17 re: 2017 Membership. The Council's annual membership has been renewed for 2017.

**Old Business**

- Large Animal OEM Plan: Nothing new to report.
- Farm Leases
  - Millstone Park: 5-year lease expiring 7/31/18. Development of Millstone Park has begun.
  - Perrineville Road: 3-year lease expiring 7/31/18. Nothing new reported.
- Open Space Trust Account Activity: The 2017 activity report, with information through February, was distributed for review. Expenses associated with the CKV / Burnt Tavern Meadows property will be referred to C/Grbelja for review.
- Wildlife Management on Farms Next to Parkland: Wildlife management was discussed during the Land Stewardship presentation given by the County at the March 23<sup>rd</sup> Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council meeting. Discussion

tabled until the confirmation of Mr. Asprocolas's appointment to the Fish and Game Council which is anticipated to occur by July 1.

- Working with County on Legislative Issues: Ms. Butch presented a letter she received from the Farm Bureau and copies of the letter were distributed to Council members. The letter will be sent to state legislators inviting them to attend upcoming New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) research facility tours to educate them about the research, extension and educational programs conducted by the NJAES. Ms. Butch reviewed the dates and locations of each of the educational tours.
- Farmland Preservation Process: The current process is cumbersome and needs to be simplified. C/Grbelja is reviewing the process.
- 2016 Ag Council Accomplishments: Council members will review the "Council Liaison" section of the list. Upon review and approval by the Council, the accomplishments list will be forwarded to the Township Committee.
- Council Goals for 2017: Council members reviewed the list of goals for 2017. The last item on the list will be re-worded for clarification.

### **Pending Legislation and Regulations**

- SADC Regulations: Mr. Asprocolas and Mr. Peck attended the "Hot Topics in Farmland Preservation" workshop at the annual Land Conservation Rally and asked for an update on the soil disturbance issue during the Q & A portion of the presentation. The appeal is at the State Supreme Court and the SADC is awaiting a decision.

### **Events**

- The New Jersey Land Conservation Rally was held on March 17th in New Brunswick. Mr. Asprocolas, Mr. Peck, Ms. Scott along with two other members of the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council and the Secretary attended the rally.

### **New Business**

- Commercial Farm Certification: County agriculture development boards are the only groups authorized, through legislation, to provide commercial farm certification to farmers. The Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board has a commercial farm certification form available on their website. (C/Grbelja arrived at 8:40 pm). Council members discussed the process and requirements for obtaining certification. The Council also discussed Right to Farm protections, Agriculture Management Practices (AMPs) and Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- Clambake: Ms. Scott was in attendance to discuss the clambake fundraiser and to determine if the Ag Council is interested in holding the event this year, in partnership with the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council. Council members discussed sponsors, volunteers, the seafood purchase, shopping, food preparation, and possibly donating a portion of the proceeds to organizations connected to preservation in return for assistance with selling tickets and helping with the event. Council members agreed to move forward with the clambake with Mr. Asprocolas and Ms. Scott co-chairing the event. The event will be held on the first or second Sunday of June, based on the availability of volunteers. The Secretary will prepare the sponsor letter.

At 9:37 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 potential preservation projects.

At 10:10 PM, the Council returned to open session.

A Motion was made by Ms. Butch with a Second offered by Mr. Peck to accept the farm discussed during executive session as a good candidate for preservation and to add the property to the Township's target farm list. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

ABSENT: (2) Pinhas, Posten

Having no further business to discuss, a Motion was made by Mr. Peck with a Second offered by Mr. Dancer and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 10:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorraine Maher  
Council Secretary