

**Millstone Township
Agricultural Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for June 26, 2017**

470 Stage Coach Road, Millstone Township, NJ 08510

Mr. Asprocolas called the meeting to order at 7:42 PM.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

Present: (4) Asprocolas, Butch, Peck, Pinhas (arrived 8:42 PM)

Absent: (2) Dancer, Posten

In attendance: Committeewoman Grbelja

Public Comment: Opened and closed at 7:43 PM with no public in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the May 22, 2017, minutes was tabled.

Correspondence

- The New Jersey Farm Service Agency Newsletter for June 2017 was distributed for review.

Old Business

- Large Animal OEM Plan: Nothing new to report.
- Farm Leases
 - Millstone Park: 5-year lease expiring 7/31/18. The farm fields have been planted.
 - Perrineville Road: 3-year lease expiring 7/31/18. No discussion.
- Open Space Trust Account Activity: The 2017 activity report, with information through May, was distributed for review. The January disbursement for the CKV acquisition was corrected in May.
- Wildlife Management on Farms Next to Parkland: Mr. Asprocolas explained that he reviewed the County's deer management plan and discussed the impact of the plan's limitations and county park land acquisitions on local farmers. Upon his full appointment to the Fish and Game Council, Mr. Asprocolas would like to coordinate a meeting with various organizations and farmers to determine more effective methods of dealing with wildlife issues on farms adjacent to county parkland.
- Working with County on Legislative Issues: Council members discussed farmland preservation appraisals and agreed that as long as appraisers follow procedures, the SADC should not interfere with appraisal values.
- Farmland Preservation Process: The documented process is too cumbersome and doesn't explain that items listed can be completed simultaneously rather than sequentially. Ms. Butch made a Motion with a Second offered by Mr. Peck to recommend to the Township Committee to remove the Farmland Preservation Process document from the Township's website.
AYES: (3) Asprocolas, Butch, Peck
NAYS: (0)
ABSTAIN: (0)
ABSENT: (3) Dancer, Pinhas, Posten
- Clambake: A preliminary financial report was distributed for review and will be updated as additional sponsorship funding is received. Mr. Asprocolas noted that this year's clambake was a huge success and credited Ms. Scott with doing a fabulous job chairing the event. The FFA volunteers did a wonderful job distributing green bags, assisting attendees and helping with cleanup after the event.
- Newsletter: Council members discussed articles for the Fall issue:

- Letter from the Ag Council Chair
- Motor vehicle rules regarding tractors and farm equipment
- Preservation closings
- Crops grown in Millstone
- Harvest Festival
- June events including Clarksburg Church Open House, Clambake and FFA partnership, Millstone Park update

The timeline for the newsletter is as follows:

- Articles due: July 24
- Edit and finalize articles: August 11
- Complete layout and proofread: August 18
- Send to printer: August 21
- Mail to residents by October 1

Pending Legislation and Regulations

- SADC Regulations: The NJ Farm Bureau filed a petition with the state Supreme Court regarding the SADC's soil disturbance case against a preserved farm. The Court's decision in this case will have an impact on farms that are already preserved and may also impact farmland preservation applications going forward.

New Business: No new business was presented during open session.

At 8:42 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 8:59 PM, the Council returned to open session. Having no further business to discuss, a Motion was made by Ms. Butch with a Second offered by Ms. Pinhas and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Maher
Council Secretary