

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
April 24, 2019**

Chairman Butch called the Meeting to Order at 7:35 p.m.

Adequate Notice was read.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Asprocolas, Chairman Butch, Vice-Chairman Peck, Ms. Posten, Ms. Pinhas

Absent: Mr. Dancer

Guests: Deputy Mayor Grbelja, Township Committee Liaison

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: March 27, 2019

Vice Chairman Peck made a Motion to approve the Minutes and Mr. Asprocolas offered a Second. Roll Call Vote: Asprocolas, Butch, and Peck voted yes to approve the meeting minutes.

Public Comments: None, No public in attendance.

Correspondence: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Wildlife Management Plan: The secretary updated the council regarding the deer spotlight count with NJDEP. The results should be received shortly. Mr. Asprocolas spoke regarding the deer survey he attended that took place with the NJ Farm Bureau. They visited about half dozen sites with a drone. The drone covers approximately a six hundred acre circle. The drone survey had to be completed before the leaf out. The report will be made available on request.

Also Chairman Butch mentioned that she would like the Township Committee to be a part of our education event that the council is planning. The council would like to have the event as soon as school is out for the summer. The secretary will reach out to the presenters. Looking to possible book dates for June 24th or June 26th.

Large Animal OEM Plan: Nothing to report.

Farm Lease: Nothing to report.

Open Space Trust: Council reviewed report.

Spring Newsletter: Deputy Grbelja noted how beautiful the newly designed newsletter turned out. There is a small line missing that will be addressed before newsletters are sent.

Land Rally Recap: Vice-Chairman Peck attended along with Mr. Asprocolas and Chairman Butch. Chairman Butch noted she learned that there may be funds in the future to help defray costs and recoup money spent on Farmland Preservation Plans that need to be updated every ten years. Green Acres may also have funds available for development in the future.

Pending Legislation and Regulation: Chairman Butch noted that the list of pending legislation was emailed to everyone from the Secretary.

2019 Clam Bake: The Secretary noted currently we have received Three Thousand dollars in sponsorships so far and have sold eight tickets.

NEW BUSINESS:

Farmland Preservation Plan: The council reviewed pages eleven through sixteen of the plan. Ms. Butch discussed the trends in market. The council will review the economic development next month. The secretary will begin pulling information from the farmland assessment forms.

Draft Amendments for Ag Advisory Council: Deputy Mayor Grbelja discussed that it is the responsibility of the Agricultural Advisory Council to identify farmland to be preserved, which is mandated by a state statute. Currently the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council maintain control of preservation. The amendments will follow the state statute that the Ag Council will identify farmland and the Open Space Council will identify open space parcels. Both councils will continue to work jointly. Chairman Butch asked the council for a motion make the recommendation to the Township Committee. Mr. Asprocolas made a motion and Vice-Chairman Peck made a second to recommend the motion.

Seeing no further business at this time, Mr. Asprocolas made a motion to leave the regular session and enter into the Executive Session to discuss pending preservations. Vice-Chairman Peck offered a Second and by unanimous, the Council left the Regular Session at 9:25p.m.

Seeing no further business at this time, Mr. Asprocolas made a Motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Pinhas offered a Second and by unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Peerboom