

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
May 22, 2019**

Chairman Butch called the Meeting to Order at 8:25 p.m.

Adequate Notice was read.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Asprocolas, Chairman Butch, Ms. Pinhas
Absent: Mr. Dancer, Vice-Chairman Peck, Ms. Posten
Guests: Ms. Jodi Powers, NJDEP

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: April 24, 2019

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

Public Comments: None, No public in attendance.

Correspondence: Notice of Cost Share Grants for Farmland Preservation Plan received from SADC – The secretary responded with regards to Millstone Township renewing their Farmland Plan.

Guest – Ms. Jodi Powers, NJDEP

Ms. Powers discussed the results of the spotlight survey that took place March 6, 8 & 10th. Ms. Powers described the process. Each time a deer is spotted the vehicle stops, each deer is counted and the distance is recorded. The NJDEP estimates Millstone Township's to have an average of 107 deer per square mile. This average will rise after fawn season. The threshold capacity for optimal forest health should be 15 – 20 deer per square mile. An unhealthy forest would lower that amount to 10 – 15 per square mile. Having an abundance of deer creates impacts on public health such as tick borne illnesses, deer automobile accidents, farming crop damage, local landscaping damage and forest health issues. Ms. Powers also noted that last year the amount of deer harvested from Millstone was 813, only second in the County to Upper Freehold, and their harvested amount was 829.

OLD BUSINESS:

Wildlife Management Plan: Chairman Butch noted that we have reached out to a couple speakers for the educational seminar to be held on June 24th or June 26th. She is currently waiting on lining up an additional speaker. The seminar will include information on forest health, tick borne illnesses and the results of the deer surveys.

Large Animal OEM Plan: Nothing to report.

Farm Lease: Nothing to report.

Open Space Trust: Council reviewed report.

Pending Legislation and Regulation: Chairman Butch noted a couple pending issues; she is asking that residents contact their legislature to help get the equine tax passed which will eliminate

the sales tax for horse stalls. Also the Rutgers experiment station is looking to increase the base line budget for this year.

2019 Clam Bake: The Clambake will be Sunday June 9th.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Asprocolas asked about the bamboo issue near his neighborhood. Deputy Mayor Grbelja asked him to follow up with the Business Administrator.

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. Ms. Pinhas offered a Second and by unanimous, the Council left the Regular Session at 8:42p.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 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Peerboom