

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP  
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 25, 2019**

Chairman Butch called the Meeting to Order at 7:38 p.m.

Adequate Notice was read.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**Absent:** Mr. Dancer, Ms. Posten

**Guests:** Deputy Mayor Grbelja

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: August 28, 2019**

Mr. Asprocolas made a Motion to approve the Minutes and Vice Chairman 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:**

- Email from SADC dated 8/30/19 RE: 2019 Annual County and Municipal Planning Incentive Grant (PIG) Application Cycle (Forwarded to Ag Council 9/11/19) – The deadline for the update is December 15<sup>th</sup>. The council was asked to review and note if there were any changes. The secretary updated and sent a copy for county review.
- Letter from Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board dated 9/13/19 RE: Monmouth County Comprehensive Farmland Plan – Target Farm List. The council will review and advise any comments.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan:** - Chairman Butch stated that the council will give the planners a couple months to review the information the council provided for the updated plan. The council will invite them back to an additional meeting to discuss any questions they may still have.

**Wildlife Management Plan:** Mr. Asprocolas supplied the council with a copy of the Monmouth County's Wildlife Management Plan. The council discussed and would like the Township Committee to review. Mr. Asprocolas noted that it includes hunter's requirements. Vice Chairman Peck asked if any type of insurance that is required. Mr. Asprocolas will follow up.

**Large Animal OEM Plan:** Nothing to report.

**Farm Lease:** Nothing to report.

**Open Space Trust:** Chairman Butch advised the council about the status of the Open Space Trust. She advised that the trust account receives approximately 1.1 million dollars yearly. Currently out of that fund \$428,000 is paid yearly towards the debt service. Another \$100,000 is interest only payment for the Millstone Park bond. \$250,000 is set aside for the matching grant that is submitted to Monmouth County. An additional \$20,000 is also used for additional matching

grants. Next year the principal for the park will also start being deducted, which will account for another \$100,000 or more from the trust. Also any engineering costs associated with projects are not reflected currently. So approximately out of the 1.1 million, \$900,000 is set aside for obligatory expenditures. So there is less than \$200,000 for open space and farmland preservation purchases for the year. It is this council's opinion that it's important that the account is protected moving forward so the funds may be used for future preservations.

**Pending Legislation and Regulation:** Chairman Butch discussed the hold of millions of dollars in funds still by the governor. Chairman Butch asked the council if they would approve to send a letter of request to the governor for the funds to be released. Vice Chairman Peck made a motion and Mr. Asprocolas made a second and the council was all in favor of sending a letter. Chairman Butch will send a form letter to the secretary.

**Events:** The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual NJ Land Conservation Rally will be held on March 20, 2019 at the Palace at Somerset Park in Somerset, New Jersey.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The SADC has sent out a memo that the Municipal Planning Incentive Grant is due December 15<sup>th</sup>. The Secretary will update and send to the County for review.

Chairman Butch discussed the budget under Open Space Trust earlier.

Chairman Butch just wanted to discuss a little on affordable housing with the council. She explained that the council will not be able to purchase or preserve any land that is designated for affordable housing and that affordable housing units cannot be placed on any of the township's open space areas. There were some questions about that at the Township's special meeting and the chairman just wanted to clarify.

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 8:35 p.m.

Chairman Butch noted there was a ribbon cutting ceremony yesterday, at the Rutgers Fruit and Ornamental Research Extension Center on Route 539 in Cream Ridge. The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders announced the partnership between the County's Grown in Monmouth program and Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station to develop a hazelnut farmer demonstration research orchard.

Seeing no further business at this time, Ms. Pinhas made a Motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Asprocolas offered a Second and by unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Peerboom