

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 27, 2008**

At 7:45 PM, Chairwoman Butch called the meeting to order.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

Roll Call

Present: Mr. Blanco, Ms. Butch, Mr. Kuczinski, Ms. Morelli, Mr. Romano, Ms. Siedman, Ms. Schloss, Mr. Wingerter

Absent: Mr. Alves, Mr. Denardo, Mr. Mullarkey

Public Comment

The public comment portion of the meeting was opened at 7:46 PM and with no public in attendance the public comment portion of the meeting was closed at 7:46 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wingerter made a motion to approve the February 27, 2008, minutes. A second was offered by Mr. Blanco. Roll call vote - AYES: (7) Mr. Wingerter, Mr. Blanco, Ms. Butch, Mr. Kuczinski, Ms. Morelli, Mr. Romano, Ms. Schloss; NAYS: (0)

Correspondence/Articles

Ms. Butch reviewed the following correspondence items:

- NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife letter dated 3/14/08: response to the trail application that was submitted to the Department of Transportation; the NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife supports the public trail system and grant request.
- Keep It Green Press Release dated 3/4/08
- Monmouth County Press Release dated 2/29/08
- Freeholders protest plan to eliminate agriculture department
- Investing in open space helps the bottom line
- Zoners deny plan for cell tower on private farm

Mr. Romano added the following correspondence item:

- The NJ Farm Bureau is organizing a rally to be held on Tuesday, April 1, in Trenton to save the Department of Agriculture; The Farm Bureau is asking farmers to bring tractors and horse trailers to protest Governor Corzine's proposed elimination of the Dept. of Ag; The Secretary will post rally information to the Township website; Ms. Butch provided a brief overview of the importance and some of the responsibilities of the Dept of Ag; Mr. Wingerter provided information about a rally he attended on March 10th to discuss solutions to the proposed elimination of the Dept. of Ag.

Old Business

- **Trails:** Ms. Butch spoke with the Township Committee and they have requested that the OSFP Council provide a proposal regarding activities permitted on trails; Ms. Butch will provide more information at the next Council meeting regarding which trails are covered under Green Acres deeds (and already have designated permissible activities), trails that are deed restricted to equestrian activity and those trails with deeds where

there is a choice of permissible activities. Mr. Wingerter suggested consulting the Monmouth County Park System regarding how they designate and mark trails; Ms. Butch will contact Ken Thoman of the MCPS and noted that she along with the Ms. Ginolfi of the Trailblazers have been meeting with the MCPS to coordinate trail connections; The Secretary will review ordinances and provide copies of all trail ordinances at the next meeting.

➤ **Goals for 2008**

- **Stewardship of Easements**– Ms. Butch provided information obtained at the March 12th NJ Land Rally regarding a presentation about the stewardship system currently utilized by Bedminster; representatives from Bedminster agreed to provide a presentation to the Council; the Secretary will extend an invitation to the April or May Council meeting to the Bedminster representatives. Ms. Siedman requested that the Council attorney include an explanatory statement with the Deed of Easement to ensure appropriate classification for stewardship purposes.
- **Property Acquisitions**
- **Keep It Green Campaign** – Mr. Wingerter announced that Monmouth Conservation Foundation made a donation to a lobbyist to raise money to educate New Jersey residents about the importance of the Keep It Green campaign and to get a funding question on the ballot in November; Mr. Wingerter suggested requesting school children to create signs for the Keep It Green campaign and offered to work out the timeline for posters to be completed.
- **Financial Reports** – continue to improve monthly financial reporting.
- **Property Prioritization** – Ms. Butch emphasized the importance of prioritizing properties due to funding limitations and the ability to preserve only one farm and one open space parcel in 2008; discussion included devoting one of the next two Council meetings to the MCPS trails and Bedminster stewardship presentations with the other meeting devoted to prioritizing properties.
- **Fundraising Events for 2009** – in addition to Millstone Day and the annual Clambake, potential events include the Pleasure Pace, a Harvest Moon Dinner & Horse Trot and a House Tour.
- **Newsletters** – will continue 3 issues per year with the 3rd issue to be distributed just prior to the November election.

➤ **Budget for 2008** –2007 expenditures were reviewed and budget requirements for 2008 were discussed; The Township Committee will hold its budget meeting on April 2.

➤ **Baird Road/Waters 40 acres Update** – nothing new to report

➤ **State Department of Agriculture proposed dissolution**

- Resolution Opposing Governor Corzine’s Plan to Eliminate the Department of Agriculture: a copy of the resolution was included in the agenda packet; this item was discussed during the Correspondence section of the meeting.

➤ **Municipal Farmland Preservation Plan**

- **Farmland Preservation Plan Amendments:** The amendments were sent via email to Council members for review; Ms. Butch explained the next steps in the process which include holding an Open Public meeting in conjunction with the Planning Board’s Open Meeting and acquiring a second set of public comments; the

plan is due back to the state by the end of April; there will be a 60 day review period; the plan must then be approved by the SADC and then the state legislature must approve the allocation of the funding;

- **Open Public Meeting April 9th at 7:30 PM:** An OSFP Council quorum is required at this meeting to approve the plan amendments; Mr. Blanco, Ms. Butch, Ms. Morelli, Ms. Schloss and Mr. Wingerter committed to attend the meeting.

New Business

- **Land Rally Overview:** Council members who attended the rally agreed that the seminars were informative; Keep It Green campaign postcards from the rally were distributed to council members; Mr. Blanco commented that information provided at the rally confirmed that Millstone Township is on target with open space and land preservation direction and informed Council members that the media should be used to its fullest extent to publicize all property closings.
- **Lichtman Property Agreement** – Ms. Butch explained the status of the agreement and agreed to provide a copy to Council members when finalized.

Events: Clambake

- **Volunteers:** a volunteer sign-up sheet was distributed to members; the Ag Council, Trailblazers, Senior Citizens and Girl Scouts will also be invited to volunteer.
- **Adult vs. Child tickets:** there is no age limit for the child's ticket; the ticket price is based on quantity and type of food; the child ticket does not include lobster; tickets are not required for age 2 and under.
- **Sponsor letter:** Mr. Wingerter asked Council members to provide the Secretary with names of any potential sponsors not included on the list provided; the Secretary will make requested updates to the letter and mail as soon as possible to sponsors.
- **Entertainment:** the Secretary will contact the band from last year's clambake to see if they are available on June 8th and request their fee and requirements to perform; members discussed the possibility of using a DJ instead of a band; it was agreed that there would be no bounce house this year.

Committee Reports:

- **Finance** – The Open Space Trust report for January and February, 2008, was distributed for Council review.
- **Preservation Signage** – nothing new to report.
- **Legislative Awareness** – Mr. Romano explained that the horse racing industry received \$90 million in purse supplements over 3 years and the next step to help the horse industry would be to permit video lottery terminals at the race tracks; a new Monmouth County committee, Save the Horse, has been formed to support the equine industry and Mayor Grbelja is chairing the panel; the first meeting will be held on April 4th.
- **Stewardship** - The Detwiller Green Acres easement has not progressed; Mayor Grbelja will be contacting the property owner.
- **Review Planning Board and Board of Adjustment Applications**
 - A trail easement has been received from the Horzepa subdivision on Forman and Roberts Roads.

Next Meeting: April 24, 2008

At 9:24 PM a motion was made by Mr. Wingerter to move to executive session with a second offered by Mr. Romano and by unanimous vote the Council moved to executive session.

At 10:07 PM the Council returned to regular session. Ms. Butch provided information regarding the New Jersey Horse Council Open Meeting to be held on June 6, 2008, at the Millstone Community Center beginning at 6:00 PM with a panel discussion moderated by Dave Kimmel of the SADC.

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Wingerter with a second offered by Mr. Romano and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher