

MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 26, 2008

At 7:39 PM, the Chairperson called the meeting to order.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

Roll Call

Present: Alves, Blanco, Butch, Denardo, Kau, Morelli, Romano, Siedman, Schloss, Wingerter
Absent: Kuczinski

Ms. Butch introduced and welcomed Mr. Christopher Kau, who was appointed to the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council at the June 18, 2208, Township Committee meeting; Ms. Butch explained that all Council members are required to sign a confidentiality agreement; Mr. Kau signed the confidentiality agreement.

Public Comment

The public comment portion of the meeting was opened at 7:41 PM. Ms. Butch acknowledged the presence of Dr. Stephen Dey, of Upper Freehold Township, in the audience however, Dr. Dey declined comment at this time and the public comment portion of the meeting was closed at 7:41 PM.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Romano with a second offered by Mr. Blanco to approve the May 22nd minutes. Ms. Butch requested one change to the May 22nd minutes: the list of property closings articles for the newsletter under New Business should include the Boyken property, which closed on June 26, 2008.

Roll call vote: Ayes: (7) Romano, Blanco, Alves, Butch, Schloss, Siedman, Wingerter
Nays: (0)

Correspondence/Articles

Ms. Butch reviewed the following correspondence items:

- *D&R Greenway Land Trust* dated May 30, 2008, commending Millstone Township on the Rocky Brook project land preservations.

Old Business

➤ **Trails**

- **Industrial Park:** no progress has been made since last month.
- **Boss Winds/County Road crossing:**
 - Monmouth County Trail Designer and Planner, Ken Thomann, County Park Ranger, Bill O'Shaughnessy, and Township Engineer, Matt Shafai, met today at the site to discuss sight triangles and other necessary work; the County will complete work on the County-owned portion and the Township will complete work on the Township-owned side of the property; there will be striping on the roadway and signs noting the pedestrian and horse crossing area; all work is expected to be complete within the next few weeks.
 - Ms. Butch informed Council members that a Monmouth County sponsored trail clearing was held on Saturday, June 21. Four Township residents, along with

approximately 12 other volunteers, assisted with the first phase of the trail connecting the park to the Assunpink WMA; there will be another trail clearing date to complete the trail within the next two months, however, the exact date of the trail clearing is not known at this time.

- **Permitted uses on existing deeded easement trails:** a chart is being prepared to show trail uses by how the trail is funded; once complete, it will go to the Township Committee for final approval and will become part of the Recreation and Open Space Inventory (ROSI).
- **Baird Road/Waters 40 acres Update:** nothing new to report at this time; Mr. Wingerter will follow-up with Mr. Gann of the DPW.
- **Boyken closing:** The closing took place today, June 26; the property contains a farmland preservation easement with a one-acre non-severable exception for a future house, a two-acre severable exception (for the existing house) and a Green Acres trail; the trail, which has already been cleared, needs to be marked and a Green Acres sign will be posted.

New Business

- **Formation of the Recreation Committee to plan new park:** the Committee currently consists of the following members: Bob Kinsey, Fiore Masci, Jim Pickering and Ms. Butch; a sign will be posted on the site to notify the public that the land has been purchased by the Township for future recreation and may have, but is not limited to, the following: lighted ball fields, practice fields, a PA system with loudspeakers, parking lots, buildings, etc.

Events

- **Clambake:** Mr. Wingerter provided an evaluation of the fundraiser. There were fewer donations received this year compared to last year, mostly due to lack of donations from surveyors; ticket sales were only 20 less than last year's event; net income from the event was just over \$7,000.00. The Secretary provided 2 handouts containing financial details of the event and a comparison to last year's event. Council members agreed that everyone had a good time despite the heat; the food was fantastic and the two seatings worked well; suggestions for next year's event include serving New England rather than Manhattan clam chowder and including BBQ ribs on the menu; Ms. Butch announced that she received an additional contribution of \$50.00 and will provide the check to the Secretary.
- **Millstone Day:** Ms. Siedman announced that over 100 donation request letters have been mailed and that a few donations have already been received.

Committee Reports:

- **Finance:** an overview of Open Space Trust account activity for 2008 was provided for Council review; further discussion was tabled due to Mr. Kuczinski's absence.
- **Preservation Signage:** The "5,140" preserved acreage signs, which were last updated in 2006, will be updated this September; the Secretary will update the list of preserved acreage to determine the new total to be posted on the signs.

- **Public Relations/Publications:** Ms Schloss provided an update of the Summer edition of the newsletter:
 - The deadline to receive articles is July 2
 - Pictures of farms have been provided by Mr. & Mrs. Morelli
 - Clambake photos have been supplied by Mr. Blanco
 - Mrs. Adams provided an article on the Goldfinch
 - The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association provided an article on watersheds; Ms. Butch and Ms. Schloss would like to update the article to include all 5 of Millstone's watershed areas; Lisa Spaziano has provided a watershed map.
 - Ms. Butch wrote an article on the Lee property, which was reviewed and approved by the Mayor
 - The Mayor will write an article on the (Monmouth County) Save the Horse Committee. In addition to explaining the purpose of the committee, the article will request submission of email addresses to form a database for the purpose of disseminating information about the equine industry and associated legislation.
 - Mr. Denardo suggested including a Millstone Day/Ride the Bull advertisement in the newsletter.
 - An advertisement for the Farm Market will be included.
- Council members discussed the best means of distribution as well as justification of expenses associated with printing and mailing of the newsletter. Mr. Alves made a motion not to send out the newsletter; Ms. Butch asked for a second and without response requested another motion; Council members discussed alternative means of distributing newsletter information, such as posting to the Open Space website; Mr. Wingerter made a motion to print the newsletter and, if possible, mail with the tax mailing, and if unable to insert with the tax mailing, to mail separately if the expense is within the budget noting that Ms. Butch, Mrs. D'Andrea and the Secretary should determine the best means of printing and distribution; a second was offered by Mr. Romano; Roll call vote: Ayes (8): Wingerter, Romano, Alves, Butch, Denardo, Morelli, Schloss, Siedman; Abstain (2): Blanco, Kau; Nays (0)
- **Fall Edition of the Newsletter:** Ms. Schloss noted that the Fall edition of the newsletter would need to be printed by October 1st for distribution prior to Election Day; Ms. Butch requested that Ms. Schloss compile a list of potential articles with a timeline for distribution to occur the last week of October; after a review of potential articles for the Fall newsletter, Council members will discuss and vote on whether a Fall issue should be printed and distributed at the July Council meeting.
- **Press releases** for Hom, Wong, Boyken, Baldwin and Lee properties will be organized between the Township and the County; Ms. Butch will provide detailed information on who will be coordinating the press releases and when they will occur.
- **Perrineville Lake Park:** the County will coordinate the press release with the Township.
- **Stewardship**
 - **GIS Program:** Ms. Butch reviewed responses received from Dr. Im to questions submitted by Lisa Spaziano regarding the GIS program and stated that a price quote will be available for the next Council meeting; Ms. Butch explained that Township Committee members might be in an amenable position regarding purchasing a GIS program in light of infractions uncovered during the recent Green Acres site inspection; Ms Butch requested a motion

regarding pursuing the acquisition of a GIS program; Mr. Blanco made a motion to support the GIS program and research the financial impact and the ability of the cost to be absorbed by the current budget; Mr. Romano offered a second; Roll call vote: Ayes (10): Blanco, Romano, Alves, Butch, Denardo, Kau, Morelli, Schloss, Siedman, Wingerter; Nays (0)

- **Detwiller Green Acres Easement:** Trail signs have been posted at both the Baird Road and Prodelin Way entrances; the next step will be to post Green Acres signs.
- **Trails**
 - *Trail Blazers' grant:* Monuments were never posted at the Reid Lane/Shield Road development because the developer went bankrupt; Township engineers have begun marking out the property corners to determine where the trail will be located and for stewardship purposes.
 - *Monmouth County Parks clearing:* was discussed under Old Business.
- **Watershed Council Liaison:** Ms. Butch announced that the Watershed Council will be starting up again and that a liaison from OSFP should attend WC meetings; Mr. Romano suggested that the WC send a liaison to the OSFP meetings and Ms. Butch agreed to submit the suggestion.
- **Recreation Planning Committee Liaison:** the Committee is in the process of being formed and the OSFP liaison has not yet been determined.
- **Library Committee:** the Committee has been formed and is looking into the feasibility of having a library in town.
- **Review Planning Board and Board of Adjustment Applications**
 - *Cardinale Application* was granted an extension of time due to DEP issues that may affect the trail, which may need to be moved.
 - *Shelly's School for Dogs* application was heard at the June 25th BoA and will come back to the July 23 BoA meeting; the location is Carr's Tavern Road (formerly the Boyce Blueberry Farm) and is adjacent to the garden center which has agreed to have a trail; the applicants are amenable to a trail.

Council Announcement

Mr. Wingerter announced his resignation from the OSFP Council as well as the Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board, which will be effective June 27, 2008. Ms. Butch reluctantly accepted Mr. Wingerter's resignation and expressed appreciation and gratitude for his contributions to the Council; Mr. Wingerter explained that he will continue his involvement with fundraising efforts including Millstone Day and the annual Clambake.

Mr. Romano nominated Ms. Siedman as Vice Chair with a second offered by Mr. Denardo. Roll call vote: Ayes (9) Romano, Denardo, Alves, Blanco, Butch, Kau, Morelli, Schloss, Wingerter; Abstain (1) Siedman; Nays(0); Council members congratulated Ms. Siedman on her appointment.

Public Comments

Dr. Stephen Dey (Upper Freehold Township) was in attendance and had the following comments/questions:

- The Council should include a public comment section at the end of the regular session to accommodate comments about what occurred during the meeting; Council members agreed and explained that public comments are welcome throughout the meeting.

- Dr. Dey questioned who has the responsibility for what occurs on Green Acres trails; Ms. Butch explained that trails are closed prior to the farmland easement and that the trail and farmland easements are two separate and distinct parcels that do not overlap; Ms. Butch further explained that all trails are put on the Millstone Township Recreation insurance policy, that the liability is covered by the Township and landowners are encouraged to post liability signs for their own protection.
- Dr. Dey questioned who has the authority to enforce trail activities and what mechanism has been established to control trail activities; Ms. Butch explained that past trail activity issues have been successfully handled by the Trailblazers in coordination with the OSFP Council. Mr. Alves explained that there are currently no Township ordinances to enforce trail activities; Council members discussed authority and enforcement issues and agreed that current procedures are informal and past issues have been handled successfully because parties involved have been reasonable; members further agreed that the Township should follow the same procedures established by the County for County trail easements.
- Dr. Dey questioned the process for establishing a trail on farmland that already has an SADC or CADB easement; Ms. Butch explained State approval would be required to reverse the farmland easement prior to establishing the Green Acres trail easement, which would be very difficult to accomplish.

At 9:33 PM a motion was made by Mr. Romano to move to executive session with a second offered by Mr. Alves and by unanimous vote the Council moved to executive session.

At 10:03 PM the Council returned to regular session. Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Wingerter with a second offered by Ms. Siedman and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 10:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher