

MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 24, 2008

At 7:40 PM, Ms. Butch called the meeting to order.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

Roll Call

Present: Alves, Butch, Kau, Kuczinski, Romano, Siedman

Absent: Blanco, Denardo, Morelli, Schloss

Public Comment

The public comment portion of the meeting was opened at 7:42 PM. Ms. Butch introduced Ms. D. Morgan Tracey to the Council. Ms. Tracey was in attendance because her application appears on the agenda under "Review Planning Board & Board of Adjustment Applications". Ms. Butch explained that the application is carried on the agenda because it is still pending and a trail has been requested on the property. Ms. Tracey explained that she attended the meeting on the advice of attorney Mr. Pape, that her application is currently inactive and that Mr. Pape will be setting up a meeting with Mr. Coppola, Mr. Shafai and Mr. Davison regarding the detention basin and welcomed Council members to attend the meeting. Ms. Butch agreed to attend the meeting if available. Ms. Tracey thanked the Council and departed. The public comment portion of the meeting was closed at 7:45 PM.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Romano with a second offered by Mr. Alves to approve the June 26th minutes. Roll call vote: Ayes: (5) Romano, Alves, Butch, Kau, Siedman; Nays: (0)

Correspondence

Ms. Butch reviewed the following correspondence items:

- ❖ *SADC letter dated June 24, 2008, RE: Fredericks*
 - The letter closes out the SADC farmland preservation application due to nonconformance of deed of easement language with SADC standards; the Township will now move forward with a Green Acres application to seek re-imbusement.
- ❖ *Monmouth County Planning Board letter dated June 30, 2008, RE: Panhandle Regional Collaborative*
 - Ms. Butch, along with various representatives from western Monmouth County, has been invited to attend the meeting to discuss regional planning issues; the meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 30; Mr. Romano, as a representative of the Ag Council, has also been invited.

Old Business

- ❖ **Trails**
 - **Industrial Park:** Ms. Butch will contact Mr. Kaufman regarding status of negotiations for the trail easement.
 - **Boss Winds/County Road crossing:** Ms. Butch showed the plan to Council members and explained that modifications are necessary to accommodate vehicular access for maintenance purposes only; this access would require a locking gate to prevent

all other vehicular access; a fence would also be necessary as a safety precaution to deter horses from running into the roadway.

- **Permitted uses on existing deeded easement trails:** all “equine only” and restricted use trails will require signage; County, State and Green Acres trails are all multi-use and will not require use signs; Ms. Butch will compile a spreadsheet of all trails and distribute to Council members for review.

- ❖ **Baird Road/Waters 40 acres Update:** Ms. Butch and Mr. Gann visited the property on Wednesday, July 23; some of the grading has been completed by the DPW but the work has been stopped; Ms. Butch will have this item placed on the Township Committee executive agenda to acquire approvals for completion of remaining work.

New Business

- ❖ **Opening of Perrineville Lake Park area off Agress Road:** the County has opened the park, which now has a sign and parking area large enough for a horse trailer to park and turn around; Ms. Butch would like the next newsletter to run an article about the County park; the County wants people to use the trails; Ms. Laura Fitzpatrick of the MCPS would be able to provide information for an article about the park. Mr. Romano suggested contacting Jane Meggitt regarding running an article in the Examiner.

Events

- ❖ **Millstone Day** is Sunday, September 21st. Ms Siedman will contact Mr. Wingerter regarding bull ride training requirements; arrangements need to be made with the DPW to transport the bull ride; Ms. Siedman informed Council members that prizes are coming in very slow.

Committee Reports

- ❖ **Finance**
 - **Open Space Trust:** an overview of Open Space Trust account activity for January through June 2008 was distributed for Council review; receipts include interest and re-imbusement for ancillary costs but not Open Space Tax Levy funds; Ms. Butch informed Council members that the issue of posting the Open Space Tax Levy to the Open Space Trust, from the General account, was raised during open session of the July 16th Township Committee, however no decision was made at the meeting regarding the transfer of funds from the General account.
 - **Operating Budget:** Ms. Butch explained that the operating budget is being handled by Ms. D’Andrea and Mr. Kuczinski and Mr. Alves should contact Ms. D’Andrea regarding a review of the budget and expenses.
- ❖ **Preservation Signage:** The signs will be updated this October; an acreage report was distributed for Council review; the new total preserved acreage is estimated to be 5,974 acres at this time; Ms. Butch requested that Council members review the information and provide feedback to the Secretary.

- ❖ **Public Relations/Publications:** the summer edition of the newsletter was provided for Council review and will be distributed with the annual tax mailing.
- ❖ **Fall Edition of the Newsletter:** Ms. Butch explained that she had a discussion with the Mayor regarding distribution of a fall newsletter; the Mayor is in favor of distributing a fall edition because she feels the newsletters are a good educational tool for residents; Ms Butch read an email from Ms. Schloss regarding the timeline for the fall edition with articles due September 1st; potential articles include:
 - Harness driver – volunteer needed to write article
 - Video slot machines – Mr. Romano to write article
 - Farmer's market and photos
 - Millstone Day thank-you to sponsors
 - Watershed follow-up article
 - Bird article with photo (nuthatch) - complete
 - Lee Farm follow-up
 - Preserved Acreage Sign update
 - Perrineville Lake Park trail opening
 - Panhandle planning meeting
- ❖ Mr. Alves expressed two concerns regarding utilizing the operating budget to print and mail newsletters:
 - Alternatives to the newsletter, or more effective means of communication, may exist that would achieve the same goal of educating public and disseminating information.
 - The newsletter should be tied to a large initiative.
- ❖ Mr. Romano made a motion to prepare, print and mail a fall newsletter with a second offered by Mr. Kuczinski; Roll call vote: Ayes (5) Romano, Kuczinski, Butch, Kau, Siedman; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Alves.
- ❖ **Legislative Awareness**
 - Mr. Romano informed Council members that he has a copy of the manure management legislation that was voted on and approved; the legislation is awaiting the Governor's signature; Mr. Romano will send the Secretary the link to the legislation for posting to the website.
- ❖ **Stewardship**
 - **GIS Program:** Ms. D'Andrea and Lisa Spaziano are working with Dr. Im on the list of questions about the program; Ms. D'Andrea will negotiate the price which should be available for the August meeting.
 - **Detwiller Green Acres Easement:** required signs have been posted; the Township is now in compliance with Green Acres requirements; Mr. & Mrs. Morris (Rue Court) signed a five-year temporary trail easement agreement at the July 23 Board of Adjustment meeting; the agreement will connect the Buono trail on Prodelin Way to Perrineville Lake Park.
 - **Trails**
 - The Trail Blazer's grant work is moving forward now that the Township-owned Reid Lane/Shield Road open space easement has been marked out.

- Monmouth County Parks trail clearing on Agress Road; Ms. Butch will be meeting with Mr. Gann and Mr. Shafai to determine what work needs to be completed by the Township including tree removal, sight triangles, fencing, etc.; line striping will require DOT approval.
- ❖ **Watershed Council Liaison:** Ms. Schloss has agreed to be liaison to the Watershed Council; to date, the group has not held a meeting.
- ❖ **Recreation Planning Committee Liaison:** the current farm lease has been extended through June 2009 with the exception of 44 acres which have been removed from the current lease and will be turned over for a two-year sod lease; the Committee is still looking for members.
- ❖ **Review Planning Board and Board of Adjustment Applications:** trails have been requested on the three properties listed below, which have all complied with the request.
 - Shelley's School for Dogs on Burnt Tavern Road was denied at the July 23 BoA meeting which precludes a trail agreement.
 - D. Morgan Tracey/353 Sweetman's Lane, LLC: located on the corner of Sweetman's Lane and Millstone Road with the exception of the Prudential building; the application for a commercial building is currently inactive but will be followed when it becomes active again.
 - CKV Realty/garden center on Burnt Tavern Road.

At 8:53 PM a motion was made by Mr. Romano to move to executive session with a second offered by Ms. Siedman and by unanimous vote the Council moved to executive session.

At 10:09 PM the Council returned to regular session. Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Alves with a second offered by Mr. Kuczinski and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 10:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher