

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 22, 2009**

At 7:35 PM, Ms. Butch called the meeting to order.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

Roll Call

Present: (9) Alves, Asprocolas, Blanco, Butch, Kau, Kuczinski, Romano, Schloss, Siedman
Absent: (2) Denardo, Morelli

Public Comment

The public comment portion of the meeting was opened at 7:36 PM and with no public in attendance was closed at 7:36 PM.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Romano with a second offered by Mr. Kuczinski to approve the December 18, 2008, minutes. Roll call vote:

Ayes: (6) Romano, Kuczinski, Butch, Kau, Schloss, Siedman

Nays: (0)

Abstain (1) Blanco

Reorganization

- ❖ Ms. Butch welcomed and congratulated new member, Mr. George Asprocolas, on his appointment to the Council as Alternate 1 for a 2-year term commencing 1/1/09 and ending 12/31/10
- ❖ Ms. Butch also congratulated reappointed members:
 - *Diane Morelli* reappointed to seat number 3 for a 3-year term commencing 1/1/09 and ending 12/31/11
 - *Merrill Siedman* reappointed to seat number 4 for a 3-year term commencing 1/1/09 and ending 12/31/11
 - *Charles Denardo* reappointed to seat number 5 for a 3-year term commencing 1/1/09 and ending 12/31/11
 - *Kristin Schloss* appointed to seat number 6 to fulfill the unexpired term of C. Wingerter which expires on 12/31/10
 - *Michael Kuczinski* appointed as the Township Committee Member for a one-year term commencing 1/1/09 and ending 12/31/09
- ❖ Ms. Butch announced the appointment of Mr. George Asprocolas as the Millstone Township representative to the Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board for 2009
- ❖ Mr. Kau volunteered as an alternate representative to the MCADB and will attend meetings in the case of Mr. Asprocolas' absence
- ❖ Mr. Blanco nominated Ms. Butch for Chairperson with a second offered by Mr. Alves; Roll call vote: Ayes (9) Blanco, Alves, Asprocolas, Butch, Kau, Kuczinski, Romano, Schloss, Siedman; Nays (0)
- ❖ Mr. Blanco nominated Ms. Siedman for Vice Chairperson with a second offered by Mr. Alves; Roll call vote: Ayes (9) Blanco, Alves, Asprocolas, Butch, Kau, Kuczinski, Romano, Schloss, Siedman; Nays (0)
- ❖ Mr. Romano made a motion to adopt the calendar of meetings for 2009, which includes the first meeting of 2010; a second was offered by Mr. Alves; Roll call vote: Ayes (9) Romano, Alves, Asprocolas, Blanco, Butch, Kau, Kuczinski, Schloss, Siedman; Nays (0)

January 22, 2009
February 26, 2009

March 26, 2009
April 23, 2009
May 28, 2009
June 25, 2009
July 23, 2009
August 27, 2009
September 24, 2009
October 22, 2009
November 19, 2009
December 17, 2009
January 28, 2010

- ❖ Mr. Romano made a motion to designate the Asbury Park Press and the Messenger Press as the official Council newspapers with a second offered by Mr. Blanco; Roll call vote: (9) Romano, Blanco, Alves, Asprocolas, Butch, Kau, Kuczinski, Schloss, Siedman; Nays (0)
- ❖ The 2008 subcommittee assignments were reviewed and updated for 2009 as noted in the attachment

Correspondence

- ❖ *Monmouth County Press Release dated 12/23/08:* Ms. Butch, as a member of the Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board, Mayor Grbelja and Committeeman Abilheira have been appointed to the Monmouth County Greenhouse Gas Reduction committee by the Board of Chosen Freeholders; this advisory committee will be exploring ways that the County can lessen the carbon footprint it leaves on the world; currently windmills and solar panels for power generation are not permitted on preserved farmland

Old Business

- ❖ **Trails**
 - **Industrial Park:** no progress to report
 - **County Road crossing on Agress Road:** final approval has been received from the DoT for the road crossing; Ms. Butch will contact the County to find out whether the County or the Township will be striping of the road
 - **Permitted uses on existing deeded easement trails:** a single list containing permitted uses must be submitted to the Township Committee to be approved via resolution; funding sources, such as Green Acres funding, must be reviewed to determine permitted uses on each trail
 - **\$25K Recreational Trail Grant:** nothing new to report
 - **Wagner Trail:** nothing new to report

New Business

- ❖ **13th Annual New Jersey Land Conservation Rally**
 - Council members interested in attending the rally should notify the Secretary so that the registration package can be submitted
- ❖ **Beaver Damage**
 - Two trappers have been contracted by the Township to trap beaver due to damage to the Livak Trail on Forman Road and the former Lee property
 - Two beaver have been trapped on the former Lee property
 - The Livak Trail has been flooded out due to beaver damage; progress on trapping at this site is not available at this time

Events

- ❖ **Possible Open House at Remarkable Sites:** nothing new to report

❖ **Pleasure Pace**

- The Pleasure Pace is currently a joint effort between the Trailblazers and the OSFP Council
- HAMT has been invited to co-sponsor the event but must discuss participation at executive level prior to commitment
- The Trailblazers will be requesting approval of a pleasure pace ride on Sunday, September 27, 2009, from the Township Committee
- Once the Township Committee's approval is obtained, approval of the County and the State Police must be obtained
- State Police approval and assistance is required if the trail route will cross Sweetmans Lane
- The Trailblazers met on Tuesday, January 20th, to discuss the trail route, food arrangements and sponsors for the event
- The Rescue Squad has been notified of the event
- Funds raised, after all costs, will be dedicated to further development of the trails

❖ **Clambake 2009**

- Mr. Romano made a motion to move forward with the planning of the 2009 Clambake Fundraiser with a second offered by Mr. Blanco; Roll call vote: Ayes (9) Romano, Blanco, Alves, Asprocolas, Butch, Kau, Kuczinski, Schloss, Siedman; Nays (0)
- The Secretary will contact the Clarksburg Inn regarding availability of the deck rental for either Sunday, June 7th, or Sunday, June 14th
- Mr. Wingerter has agreed to be in charge of the food

Committee Reports

❖ **Finance**

▪ **Open Space Trust**

- Mr. Kuczinski questioned the appropriateness of utilizing the Open Space Trust for the payment of the farm market manager expense
- Mr. Romano explained that no vendor fee was charged for the 2008 season, but that a vendor fee will be charged for the 2009 season to offset the market manager expense
- The decision to use the Open Space Trust to pay the market manager expense was made by the Township Auditor
- Utilization of the Open Space Trust for the conservation easement monuments was also questioned
- The Trust is used to purchase the posts in bulk and is reimbursed when developers and property owners buy the posts; there should be a zero net effect on the Trust
- The Secretary will address the drop in Trust account interest for the month of December with the CFO

❖ **Preservation Signage**

- Nothing to report

❖ **Public Relations/Publications**

- Potential articles for the Spring 2009 edition of the newsletter include
 - Kenney closing – L. Maher/S. Morelli
 - Watershed – K. Schloss
 - Farm market opening – A. Romano
 - Recreation Committee article on the former Lee property – P. Butch
 - Manure management – A. Romano

- Roosevelt CSA
- November ballot referendum question
- Clambake/Save the Date – L. Maher
- The Pleasure Pace event – P. Butch/A. Ginolfi
- Members discussed the expense and purpose of printing and distributing the newsletter; Ms. Butch explained that educating taxpayers regarding how Open Space Trust funds are spent is the main objective of the newsletter
- Alternate methods of distributing information include:
 - the school backpack drop, which is a good communication tool but limited to residents with children in the Millstone Township school system
 - Posting a full page ad in the Examiner similar to the Board of Education Eagle's Eye
- Mr. Romano made a motion to prepare and print the Open Space & Farmland Preservation/Agricultural Advisory Councils' joint newsletter for the first quarter of 2009 with a second offered by Mr. Kuczinski; Roll Call vote: Ayes (9) Romano, Kuczinski, Alves, Asprocolas, Blanco, Butch, Kau, Schloss, Siedman; Nays (0)
- The Secretary and Ms. Schloss will work out the newsletter timeline and Ms. Schloss will contact members regarding the due dates for articles

❖ **Legislative Awareness**

- Mr. Romano explained that Senator Kean is looking to place a referendum question on the November 2009 ballot to permanently supplement a state preservation trust fund

❖ **Stewardship**

- Ms. Siedman explained that progress with photographing properties has slowed due to the weather
- 19 out of 32 properties have been photographed
- Top Step Farm, the former Lee property and Wagner Farm Park have been photographed
- When photographing the open space properties is complete, work on the trails will begin

❖ **Watershed Committee:** The Committee hasn't met yet; nothing to report

❖ **Recreation Planning Committee:** nothing new to report

❖ **Review Planning Board and Board of Adjustment Applications:** nothing new to report

At 9:10 PM, a motion was made by Mr. Blanco with a second offered by Ms. Siedman and by unanimous vote the Council moved to executive session.

At 9:39 PM, the Council returned to regular session. Ms. Schloss provided a review of articles for the newsletter. At 9:46 PM, having no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Siedman with a second offered by Mr. Kuczinski and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 9:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher

Millstone Township OSFP Council January 22, 2009, Meeting Minutes
Attachment I

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL
2009 Committees**

Finance

Tony Alves
Mike Kuczinski

Fundraising

Pat Butch
Mike Kuczinski
Diane Morelli
Kristin Schloss
Merrill Siedman

Fundraiser/Clambake

TBD

Fundraiser/House Tour

Kristin Schloss

Fundraiser/Millstone Day

Tony Alves
Charlie Denardo
Tony Romano
Merrill Siedman

Grant Writing

Pat Butch
Kristin Schloss

Land Acquisition

Tony Alves
Pat Butch
Diane Morelli
Kristin Schloss

Legislative Awareness

Tony Romano

Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board

George Asprocolas
Christopher Kau (alternate)

OSFP Inventory, Stewardship & Management

Manny Blanco
Pat Butch
Christopher Kau
Merrill Siedman

PIG Representative

Pat Butch
Christopher Kau

Planning Board/Zoning Board Application Review

Manny Blanco
Pat Butch

Preservation Signage

Tony Romano

Public Relations/Publications/Education

Tony Alves
Diane Morelli
Kristin Schloss
Merrill Siedman

Recreation Planning Ad-hoc Committee

Pat Butch
Mike Kuczinski

Tax Register Review

Tony Alves

Watershed Committee Representative

Kristin Schloss