

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP  
OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, August 27, 2009**

At 7:37 pm, Ms. Butch called the meeting to order.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

**Roll Call**

Present: (6) Blanco, Butch, Kuczinski, Romano, Schloss, Siedman

Absent: (5) Alves, Asprocolas, Denardo, Kau, Morelli

**Public Comment**

The public comment portion of the meeting was opened at 7:39 pm and with no public comment was closed at 7:39 pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Blanco with a second offered by Mr. Kuczinski to approve the July 23, 2009, minutes. Roll call vote:

Ayes (5) Blanco, Kuczinski, Butch, Schloss, Siedman

Nays (0)

**Correspondence/News Releases/Announcements**

- **Millstone River Inaugural Ride Flyer:** The ride will take place on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>; Ms Butch described the route and explained that volunteers are needed for the event.

**Old Business**

- **Trails**
  - **Industrial Park:** Nothing reported.
  - **County Road crossing on Agress Road**
    - The crossing is open and the trail is open behind Perrineville Lake.
    - Two sections will be added to the trail in the future to connect the park to trails in Roosevelt and the Assunpink WMA.
- **Trail Grant Work**
  - Ms. Butch met with Ken Gann and mapped out the next section of the trail; work is scheduled to begin in fall on the Buono trail.
  - Trail markers will be ordered.
- **Impact of Inclusionary Element on COAH Objection**
  - The Township Committee (TC) received the memo from the Open Space Council expressing opposition to the inclusionary element on the COAH objection.
  - Mr. Kuczinski explained that Committeeman Abilheira questioned how the Council derived the opinion and what the opinion is based upon; according to Township Planner, Rich Coppola, if specific sites are not identified, anything in the designated zone is off the table for preservation purposes; Mr. Kuczinski is working with Mr. Davison to determine who should respond to C/Abilheira due to the pending litigation; all questions should be referred to Mr. Kuczinski.

- **SADC Trail Subcommittee**
  - The subcommittee has not met publicly and has not shared any information since last month.

## **New Business**

- **Termination of County Lease for USDA**
  - A number of people attended a second Freeholder meeting to voice concern regarding the lease termination.
  - The Freeholders added a clause in the lease stating that the USDA offices can be moved at any time during the lease; the USDA turned down the lease revision.
  
- **Termination of Hunting on Township Open Space**
  - The Council's concerns regarding hunting on open space have been stated.
  - Mr. Kuczinski explained that this is a safety issue and residents should not have to live in fear.
  - The addition of crossbow hunting this year creates an additional hazard; deer could run 100 to 150 feet after being hit and could come down on residential property.
  - Residents attended the August 5, 2009, Township Committee meeting to express concerns regarding hunting on open space properties and stated that they would be acquiring signatures in support of the termination of hunting on Township open space.
  
- **Farm Leases on Township-owned Open Space**
  - The lease will go out to bid in December 2009 and the term of the lease will be July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011.
  - The lease will specify when the crop must be removed.
  
- **Capital-to-Coast Bike Trail**
  - Currently on hold.
  
- **Hand-held GPS for Stewardship**
  - The Secretary read a memo from Pam D'Andrea asking the Council if they would like the Grant Writer, Mr. Pickering, to find and apply for a grant for the purchase of a hand-held GPS device and necessary software.
  - A motion was made by Mr. Blanco with a second offered by Ms. Schloss and all in favor to have the Secretary send a memo to Mr. Pickering requesting that he research and apply for an appropriate grant for a hand-held GPS device with all necessary software.
  - Ms. Butch suggested seeking advice from the Avakian Engineering firm regarding the selection of a suitable device for the Council's needs.

## **Events**

- **Possible Open House at Remarkable Sites** - Ms. Schloss provided information from a meeting she attended with members of the Hightstown Historical Society:
  - If the house tour is to be a fundraiser, the recommendation is to do a holiday tour rather than a historical tour; research for a historical tour could take over a year and construction/renovation might eliminate historical references of certain houses.
  - The Hightstown Holiday House Tour is run as follows:
    - The tour ties in with other events in town (e.g., church holiday events) as well as a plant and craft sale.

- Two years are allotted for solicitation and planning.
- Brochures are not printed due to the expense (approx \$1,000); tour information appears on the tickets.
- Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 the day of the event; tickets for the historical house tour are \$25/each.
- Tours average about 6 or 7 homes.
- Several hundred people have attended previous tours; the number of people in a home at any given time is limited.
- Hospital type booties are purchased to cover shoes.
- Access is usually limited to a few rooms on the lower level to eliminate going up and down stairs.
- Houses with inadequate parking are eliminated from the tour.
- It is important to establish committees for publicity, ticket sales, docents, etc.
- Hightstown wasn't clear on insurance coverage; insurance would need to be addressed with the Township attorneys.
- The Hightstown Historical Society is open to partnering with neighboring towns and offered to post information on their website.
- Homes are solicited through one of the Historical Society members, who is a realtor; the tour can showcase homes that will be going up for sale or homes that have been recently renovated or redecorated to showcase a contractor's or decorator's work; the suggestion is to over-solicit because some homes may drop out.
- Council members can begin soliciting homeowners for a future tour; the tour theme can be determined at a later date.
- The church on Stage Coach Road is on the National Historic registry and may be a potential site for the tour.

➤ **Millstone Day 2009**

- Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, at Frogbridge Day Camp from noon to 5 pm.
- Ms. Butch provided information about the Hightstown rubber duckie derby; this may be a potential fundraiser for Millstone Day next year; details are as follows:
  - Rubber ducks, purchased from Oriental Trading, are weighted with washers and numbered.
  - The cost of entering a duck in the derby is approximately \$2.00; the ducks are recycled for future derbies; they are willing to rent ducks to another 501(c)(3) organization.
  - This has become a popular fundraiser and rubber duckie derby T-shirts are also sold.
  - The ducks are collected in baskets and dumped into the pond.
  - The first duck to go over the waterfall is the winner.
  - Prizes are Visa gift cards.
- The Council will have the following at Millstone Day:
  - The display board with laminated pictures of open space properties and Council events.
  - Handouts of county park offerings.
  - Perrineville Lake and Charleston Springs County Park trail maps.
  - Copies of newsletters.
  - Conservation easement flyers.
  - Various maps.
  - Candy to distribute (no chocolate).
  - Individual packages of animal crackers.
  - 100 Apples.

- **Pleasure Pace**
  - Scheduled for Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - Volunteers are needed for the event; Council members should contact Trailblazer Audrey Ginolfi with availability.

### **Committee Reports**

- **Finance/Open Space Trust:** The Open Space Trust account activity through July was distributed for review; the open space tax levy was deposited to the Open Space Trust.
- **Preservation Signage:** Nothing to report.
- **Public Relations/Publications:** Mr. Romano will check to see if a referendum question will be on November's ballot.
- **Legislative Awareness:** Nothing to report.
- **Stewardship:** Nothing to report because no site visits have taken place.
- **Watershed Committee Liaison:** A meeting has not been held; nothing to report.
- **Recreation Planning Committee:** The committee hasn't met; nothing to report.
- **Review Planning Board and Board of Adjustment Applications**
  - D. Morgan Tracey/353 Sweetmans Lane, LLC: may appear before the BoA in September.
  - CKV Realty (Garden Center) Burnt Tavern Road: will be coming back to the BoA soon.

At 8:51 pm, a motion was made by Mr. Kuczinski with a second offered by Mr. Blanco and by unanimous vote the Council moved to executive session.

At 9:49 pm, the Council returned to regular session. Having no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Siedman with a second offered by Mr. Blanco and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 9:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher