

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 19, 2009**

Ms. Butch called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

Roll Call

Present: (6) Butch, Denardo, Kau, Morelli, Romano, Siedman

Absent: (5) Alves, Asprocolas, Blanco, Kuczinski, Schloss

Public Comment

Ms. Butch opened the meeting to public comment at 7:39 pm and with no public in attendance closed the public comment portion of the meeting at 7:39 pm.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Denardo with a second offered by Ms. Siedman to approve the October 22, 2009, minutes. Roll call vote:

Ayes (3) Denardo, Siedman, Butch

Nays (0)

Correspondence

- ***Capital to the Coast Trail*** dated 11/6/09 re: Creation of a bicycle trail from Manasquan to Trenton; the trail will be primarily on roads, not off-road; a meeting will be scheduled; the Environmental Commission Chair, Eric Davis, and the Township Engineer need to attend the meeting; Ms. Butch will notify Council members when the meeting date is set and welcomed all Council members to attend the meeting.

Old Business

- ***Trails***
 - **Industrial Park:** Ms. Butch will contact Simon Kaufman regarding finalizing metes and bounds and having everything signed to make the trail official.
- ***Trail Grant Work***
 - The work will start up again and will begin with the Buono trail.
 - Some clearing is required.
 - Ms. Butch will meet with Ms. Spaziano to order marker material for the trail.
- ***Farm Leases on Township-owned Open Space***
 - Mayor Grbelja will be holding a meeting to pull together all recommendations for the lease.
 - The bids for the former Lee property are anticipated to go out in January 2010
 - This lease will be a model for Township farm leases going forward.
- ***Capital to the Coast Bike Trail:*** Discussed under correspondence.
- ***Hand-held GPS for Stewardship***
 - Ms. Butch accompanied Township engineering inspector, Dan Specht, out in the field; Mr. Specht used Avakian's GPS which he programmed

prior to going out in the field; he was able to produce a survey, including detours, when he returned to the office; the unit costs approximately \$4,500 and requires software and training, at additional cost; Avakian has a designated computer for the GPS.

- Mr. Denardo agreed to contact Mr. Specht again regarding the ability to download GPS information and transitioning GPS information if the Township should change engineering firms in the future.

➤ ***Council Member Terms Expiring on 12/31/09***

- Mr. Kau, who is filling Ms. Schloss's unexpired term, expressed interest in a reappointment; the new term will be a three year tem.
- Mr. Romano is unsure about a reappointment.
- Ms. Butch expressed interest in a reappointment.

New Business

➤ ***November Election***

- The public question passed at the State and County level but was voted down by the Township; while almost all Township voters voted for the governor, fewer and fewer voted at the county and municipal levels and for the public question.
- The Township results for Public Question #1 are as follows
 - Yes: 1,210
 - No: 1,277
- More education and public awareness may be necessary for future bond referendum questions.

➤ ***Preliminary Schedule of Meetings for 2010***

- The schedule for 2010 was distributed for review; meetings are scheduled for the fourth Thursday of the month with the exception of November and December, during which the meetings are moved to the third Thursday due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.
- Mr. Romano made a motion to accept the schedule of meetings for 2009 with a second offered by Mr. Denardo and all in favor.

➤ ***December 17th meeting proposed cancelation***

- Ms. Butch proposed the cancelation of the December 17, 2009, meeting.
- Mr. Romano made a motion to cancel the December 17th meeting with a second offered by Mr. Denardo and all in favor.

➤ ***Municipal Holiday Party***

- Thursday, December 10, at the Clarksburg Inn.
- Open to all Councils and Committees; contact the Council Secretary or DPW Secretary, Debbie Sheridan, if you would like to attend.

Events

➤ ***Possible Open House at Remarkable Sites***

- Potential fundraiser for plaques for remarkable sites.
- Ms. Butch is one of the Township representatives to the County's bicentennial committee; there is a plan to have a roadway path from Upper Freehold to the east coast; Towns are being asked to identify remarkable sites along the roadway; Ms. Butch met with the historic commission to request help with fundraising and marking sites.
- Ms. Butch proposed that the Council consider donating money to purchase plaques for remarkable sites on open space properties.

- **Clambake 2010**
 - Mr. Denardo will handle the food and supply purchase and will organize volunteers; the Secretary provided Mr. Denardo with receipts for food and supplies purchased for the 2009 clambake as well as the financial report listing the number of tickets sold and total sponsorships.
 - The Secretary will handle ticket sales.
 - Ms. Siedman will not co-chair this event due to other Council commitments.
 - Ms. Butch asked Councils members for help with acquiring sponsors for the event.

Committee Reports

- **Finance/Open Space Trust**
 - The Open Space Trust account activity through October was distributed for review.
 - The Council reviewed the operating budget through October.
 - A land rally may be planned for 2010.
- **Preservation Signage**
 - The State pays for the signs; property owners must request the sign from the State.
 - The Secretary will send letters to Farmland Preserved property owners who currently do not have signs.
- **Public Relations/Publications:** nothing to report.
- **Legislative Awareness – Lam Duck Session**
 - Proposed bill A-1690 redefines the current 25 mph speed limit for motor vehicles in the vicinity of horseback riders to cover horse-drawn carriages and the walking of horses; Ms. Butch asked Council members to contact local legislatures to express support for the bill; Ms. Butch will forward the email regarding the bill to the Secretary for distribution to the Council.
 - Proposed Forest Stewardship bill A-3239 encourages sustainable management of private forest lands.
 - Proposed ORV Bill A-823/S-2055 requires all off-road vehicles to be registered and tagged and imposes stiff penalties for illegal riding on public lands.
 - A proposed “builder bill” would rewrite the State Planning Act for the worse; it would give the State Planning Commission power to override local governments, state agencies and regional planning bodies.
 - Mr. Kau made a motion with a second offered by Mr. Denardo and all in favor to have the Secretary prepare and send three separate letters of support, for the first three bills listed above, to local legislatures and the Governor-elect.
- **Stewardship:** Ms. Siedman provided an update of recent site visits.
 - **Perrineville Road/Orchards**
 - Ms. Siedman took pictures of dumping on the Fairplay side of Perrineville Road and explained that there is a no trespassing sign at the start of the trail that states it is private property; Ms. Butch suggested contacting Ken Gann to see if the sign was posted by the DPW; if not, this information needs to be forwarded on to Zoning Officer, Pat Hynes.
 - Clearing of the trail has just been completed; the next phase will be to mark the trail; parking spaces are planned for access to the trail.

- **Agress Road**

- The McFie Trail is on the right side of the road (when traveling southbound on Agress Road from Perrineville Road towards Witches Hollow) and extends from the road to the fence.
- There is a privately-owned wildlife corridor on the left-hand side of the road (when travelling southbound on Agress Road); there is no public access; this area will be monitored with the conservation easements and letters will need to be sent to property owners regarding access.
- There is a huge, publicly-owned (fee simple) wildlife corridor easement on the left-hand side of the road (when travelling southbound on Agress Road) that extends from Agress Road to the Assunpink; it is 15 feet wide; there is also a 15 foot conservation easement adjacent to a portion of the wildlife corridor; the trail has been cleared and has markers.

- **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:** Nothing to report in open session.

At 8:37 pm, a motion was made by Mr. Romano with a second offered by Mr. Kau and by unanimous vote the Council moved to executive session.

At 9:11 pm, the Council returned to regular session. Having no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Denardo with a second offered by Mr. Kau and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher