

MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 22, 2012

Ms. Butch called the meeting to order at 7:29 pm.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

Roll Call

Present: (7) Blanco, Butch, Kau, Kuczinski (7:31 pm), Marra, Romano, Siedman

Absent: (4) Asprocolas, Denardo, Morelli, Schloss

Public Comment Session: No public in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the February 23, 2012, minutes was tabled.

Correspondence

- **Monmouth County Park System Green Heritage Newsletter:** Includes a listing of the Monmouth County Municipal Open Space grant awards and an article highlighting the Historic Thomas Baird Homestead and Cultural Resource Center project.

Old Business

- **Trails**
 - *Industrial Park:* No report.
 - *White Birch Trail Grant:* No report.
 - *Doctor's Creek Trail Grant:* No report.
- **Ordinance 12-02 Adopted 2/15/12:** Faithful Adherence to Oath of Office; all Council members have signed the Oath.

New Business: No new business.

Events

- **6th Annual Open Space Clambake:**
 - Council members discussed serving beer at the Clambake. There would be two different ticket prices: one with beer included in the price and one without beer. The Municipal Clerk will obtain a cabaret license for the day of the event. Tickets would need to be purchased in advance; no cash bar and no cash can be exchanged the day of the event. Council members discussed policing beer distribution, checking identification, insurance and liability issues. Mr. Kau made a Motion to not sell alcohol at the clambake fundraiser with a Second offered by Mr. Blanco. Roll call vote:
Ayes (7): Kau, Blanco, Butch, Kuczinski, Marra, Romano, Siedman
Nays (0)
Abstain (0)
 - Council members agreed to increase the price of an adult ticket from \$25.00 to \$30.00 if purchased by Monday, May 21st. The adult ticket price will increase to \$35.00 if purchased after May 21st.
 - Sam's Club shopping to be done on Friday, June 1st. The Secretary will notify the Clerk/Purchasing Agent of the date for shopping.
 - Council members also discussed having enough lobster for late arrivers and selling extra food items at the conclusion of the event.

Committee Reports

Finance: The 2012 Open Space Trust activity through February was distributed for review; no discussion.

Preservation Signage

- Valerie Palluzzi of A-Norton Septic inquired about sponsoring one of the Millstone signs, similar to other towns that have “Welcome to...” signs that are sponsored by local businesses. It was determined that the signs were purchased by the Environmental Commission and the Open Space Council only updates the preserved acreage number. This inquiry will be directed to the Township Committee.
- Mr. Kuczinski provided information on an “Adopt-a-Road” program. If a business wanted to adopt a road, the company’s name would appear on the sign. The company would need to pay for the sign along with a fee, which would go to the Open Space Trust, and it would be necessary to establish an escrow account in the case that the company did not keep the roadside clean or the company goes out of business. Ms. Butch suggested partnering with the Environmental Commission for this type of program.
- Some roads in town have already been adopted; the Secretary will obtain a list of adopted roads from the Municipal Clerk.

Public Relations/Publications: Discussion tabled due to Ms. Schloss’ absence.

Legislative Awareness

Ms. Butch has been appointed to the legislative committee of the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture and reviewed information on pending legislation including:

- Minimum wage increase: The pending bill does not have an exemption for farm labor; in some cases farm workers receive labor housing as part of compensation. The bill also includes an automatic annual cost-of-living increase which could be devastating to the agriculture community.
- Farmland assessment: There is some opposition to Jennifer Beck’s pending bill that revises provisions of the farmland assessment law. Arguments against the bill suggest that more stringent standards for farmland assessment qualification would cause property owners to develop land rather than pay higher taxes if the assessment is denied.

Mr. Romano provided an update on horse racing.

- Standardbred racing at the Meadowlands began in January with a private owner.
- Thoroughbred racing at Monmouth Park racetrack is scheduled to begin in May. The Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association is renting the track from the State.

Stewardship/Monitoring: Nothing new to report. Ms. Siedman is waiting for documentation from Ms. D’Andrea. Monitoring will begin again in fall.

Watershed Committee Liaison: The committee has not had a meeting.

Review Planning Board and Board of Adjustment Applications

- CKV Realty (Garden Center) on Burnt Tavern Road: The application, which includes a trail easement, will be on the agenda for the March 28th BoA meeting.

At 8:13 pm a Motion was made by Mr. Kau with a Second offered by Mr. Romano and by unanimous vote the Council moved to executive session.

At 8:57 pm the Council returned to regular session.

Having no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Blanco with a Second offered by Mr. Kau and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher
Council Secretary