

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP  
OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, September 27, 2012**

Ms. Butch called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

**Roll Call**

Present: (5) Blanco, Butch, Marra, Morelli, Siedman

Absent: (6) Asprocolas, Denardo, Kau, Kuczinski, Romano, Schloss

**Public Comment Session:** No public in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes**

A Motion was made by Ms. Siedman with a Second offered by Mr. Blanco to approve the July 26, 2012, minutes. Roll call vote:

AYES (3) Siedman, Blanco, Butch

NAYS (0)

ABSTAIN (0)

**Correspondence**

- **Letter from the Agricultural Advisory Council re: Allen Barn and Carriage House.** Discussion postponed pending Mr. Peck's arrival at the meeting.
- **Letter from Governor Chris Christie** dated 9/18/12 re: Green Acres Planning Incentive Grant. The Green Acres Program has allocated \$325,000, from the last bond referendum, to Millstone Township. Millstone will receive funding upon passage of a legislative appropriation.
- **Ordinance 12-14: Indemnification of Municipal Officers and Employees.** Based on an ordinance adopted by Freehold Township, indemnifying volunteers on this and other boards and councils.

**Old Business**

- **Trails**
  - *Industrial Park:* Nothing new to report.
  - *White Birch Trail Grant:* Trailblazers have ordered trail markers.
  - *Doctor's Creek Trail Grant:* Work will begin soon.

**New Business**

**Events**

- **Millstone Day:** Sunday, September 23, 2012. Several groups, including the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council, the Agricultural Advisory Council, the Friends of Millstone Township Historic Registered Properties, the Historic Commission, the Shade Tree Commission, Trailblazers and HAMT were situated together. This worked well for coverage throughout the day.
- **Open Space Pace:** Saturday, September 29, 2012, at Freehold Raceway. The event begins in the morning with a parade of horses and ends in the evening with a concert by Southside Johnny. There will be many booths and special activities.

- **17<sup>th</sup> Annual New Jersey Land Conservation Rally:** March 9, 2013, at NJ Institute of Technology in Newark. Details regarding speakers and workshops are not yet available.

## **Committee Reports**

**Finance:** The 2012 Open Space Trust activity through August was distributed for review. The open space tax levy will be posted to the Trust account in October.

**Public Relations/Publications:** The newsletter may only be two pages rather than four pages for this edition. Ms. Butch will check with the Ag Council regarding articles or information they would like included in this issue.

**Legislative Awareness:** The horse industry has been asking for a conditional veto of the horse transportation bill which passed in both the Senate and Assembly. The horse industry opposes the amendment to the bill that authorizes roadside inspections of horse trailers by SPCA agents. There is also a bill pending that seeks to tighten rules for farmland assessment qualification. This bill will impact equine operations which must have production income, such as from breeding or re-training standardbreds and thoroughbreds; boarding and riding lessons will not count towards production income.

**Stewardship/Monitoring:** Nothing to report.

**Review Planning Board and Board of Adjustment Applications:** Nothing to report.

At 7:51 pm a Motion was made by Ms. Morelli with a Second offered by Mr. Blanco and by unanimous vote the Council moved to executive session.

At 8:31 pm the Council returned to regular session.

Seeing no one from the Agricultural Advisory Council in attendance, the Secretary read correspondence from the Ag Council regarding the historic Allen House barn. The cost analysis for dismantling the Allen barn and carriage house reveals that the cost will exceed the Ag Council's \$23,000 share of clambake funds. The Ag Council respectfully requests that the Open Space Council consider contributing up to \$12,000 towards dismantling and storing the two historic buildings that will be re-erected at the Thomas Baird Homestead and Cultural Resource Center. A grant has been written that will include the cost of re-erecting the buildings at the new location. The two historic structures will enhance the Baird Homestead by providing additional space for displays and educational programs. Council members discussed the low attendance for tonight's meeting and questioned if a vote could be postponed until the next meeting. Ms. Butch explained that the buildings must come down by winter to allow the Affordable Housing Alliance to begin construction at the site. Due to the time necessary to prepare and execute a contract for dismantling the structures, the timeline precludes tabling the vote until the next scheduled meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Council members discussed the importance and benefits of the project; the Friends group's part in leasing the site and fundraising to cover maintenance and monthly expenses; and options available for action to be taken at tonight's meeting which include: (1) voting to approve the amount requested, (2) voting on an amount other than the amount requested and (3) tabling a vote. Ms. Butch explained that the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture feels that this is an important project and will discuss a contribution to the project at their

next meeting. All other sources for funding of this project have been tapped. Repercussions of tabling a vote could jeopardize the execution of a contract with the New Jersey Barn Company to dismantle the barn and carriage house as they will likely move forward with another project.

Mr. Blanco made a Motion to use up to \$12,000 from the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council's \$23,000 reserve from the clambake fundraisers for dismantling the Allen barn and carriage house, which will be re-erected at the Thomas Baird Homestead. Furthermore, if dismantling the structures does not begin by December 15, 2012, this motion will be remanded back to the Council for reconsideration. A Second was offered by Ms. Morelli. Roll call vote:

AYES (5) Blanco, Morelli, Butch, Marra, Siedman  
NAYS (0)  
ABSTAIN (0)

Council members discussed the following points:

- It is the responsibility of each Council member to make their best effort to attend meetings so that they have an opportunity to contribute to discussions and take part in the decision making process.
- Council members agreed that all meetings are important and memos will not be distributed regarding special meetings. Agendas will reflect all subjects to be discussed; additional details will be included on agendas.
- The preservation of farmland and open space has slowed due to the lack of funding. Going forward, if there is no new or pending business to be discussed, meetings will be cancelled.
- The attendance record will be distributed to the entire Council after the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Having no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Blanco with a Second offered by Mr. Marra and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher  
Council Secretary