

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 27, 2014**

Ms. Butch called the meeting to order at 7:43 pm.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

Roll Call

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

Absent: (5) Asprocolas, Blanco, Kau, Marra, Morelli

Public Comment Session: Opened and closed at 7:44 pm with no public in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A Motion to approve the January 23, 2013, minutes was made by Mr. Romano with a Second offered by Ms. Siedman. No discussion. Roll call vote:

AYES: (4) Romano, Siedman, Butch, Denardo

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Correspondence

- **Green Acres Compliance Inspection Report dated 2/25/14:** Green Acres acknowledgement signs and Trail Access / Conservation Easement signs need to be posted on five of the nine properties inspected. Green Acres will send the signs to the Township. After the signs are posted, the Township will need to send confirmation to Green Acres that the signs have been posted.

Old Business

- **Trails** There is nothing new to report on the following trails:
 - Industrial Park
 - White Birch Trail
 - Doctors Creek Trail
- **2014 NJ State Agriculture Convention:** Ms. Butch attended the convention which was held in Atlantic City on February 4th and 5th during one of the snowstorms.
- **NJ Land Conservation Rally:** The rally was held on Saturday, March 22, in Piscataway. Ms. Butch, Mr. Asprocolas, Mr. Peck, Ms. D'Andrea and Ms. Maher attended the rally. There were fewer workshops offered this year as compared to previous rallies. Ms. Maher attended the Hot Topics in Farmland Preservation workshop which covered stewardship of preserved farms and agritourism on preserved farms. Ms. Butch attended a workshop on non-contiguous clustering and provided a brief overview of the concept.

New Business

- **Ordinance No. 14-02** was adopted at the March 19th Township Committee meeting. The Agricultural Advisory Council now has the authority to review farmland preservation applications, conduct site inspections of potential farmland preservation properties and sign off on the Affidavit of Municipal Advisory Committee Verification form. Mr. Kuczinski explained that the ordinance was amended to comply with current

law but it is not intended to diminish the Open Space Council's powers and responsibilities. The application process will continue as it has in the past with an additional layer for Ag Council review. The Open Space Council will continue to be responsible for performing the due diligence on farmland preservation applications and will still be involved in the decision making process. Council members voiced concerns about duplication of work and the difficulty of getting members from both Councils together for site assessments. Mr. Romano suggested having the Ag Council take the lead on farmland preservation applications and forwarding their findings to the Open Space Council for processing. Mr. Denardo suggested having a joint meeting with both Councils to discuss potential farmland preservations and the process for making recommendations to the Township Committee. Council members agreed that both Councils must agree on moving forward on an application before any funds are spent on appraisals. Ms. Butch announced that this will be her last farmland preservation application and that she would like to use the current application to train someone from the Ag Council to take over as the Municipal Planning Incentive Grant Administrator.

Events

- **2014 Clambake Fundraiser:** The Clambake will be held on Sunday, June 8th, from 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm at Wagner Farm Park. The event will be co-sponsored by the Agricultural Advisory Council, which is reflected on the sponsor letter. The Trailblazers have assisted in the past and will be asked to help again this year. Ms. Siedman will contact the Boy Scouts to ask for volunteers to help with bussing tables. An inventory of supplies was distributed for Council review. Council members discussed the menu, which will remain the same. More pulled pork will be purchased this year to avoid running out, which happened the past two years. Council members discussed the amount of lobster that were leftover last year. This is most likely due to sponsors either not using all of their tickets or not attending the event. The ticket price will remain the same as last year and the event will remain "bring-your-own". Mr. Romano will contact the clam shucker. The Secretary will find out when the health department inspection will take place and will obtain pricing for the lobster. The quantity of shrimp should be increased because we almost ran out last year. The Secretary will find out if the contracted cleaning service could be brought in to clean after the event. The Secretary will make arrangements to obtain keys from the recreation department and will make arrangements to do the Sam's Club shopping on Friday, June 6th, with the Purchasing Agent.

Committee Reports

- **Finance:** The Open Space Trust activity report for the period January 1, 2014, through February 28, 2014, was distributed for review. Council members discussed the Bond Anticipation Note which matured on February 24th and was sold at a premium. Council members also discussed the amount of funding that is owed to the Township by the Green Acres Program.
- **Public Relations/Publications:** No discussion.
- **Legislative Awareness:** No discussion.
- **Stewardship:** No discussion.
- **Review Planning Board and Board of Adjustment Applications:** No discussion.

At 8:47 pm a Motion was made by Mr. Denardo with a Second offered by Mr. Romano and by unanimous vote the Council moved to executive session.

At 8:54 pm the Council returned to regular session.

Ms. Butch announced that a resignation letter was received from Mr. Blanco who will be moving to South Carolina. Council members discussed Mr. Blanco's dedication and contributions to the Open Space Council and Planning Board; he will be missed. The Council regretfully accepted his resignation.

Having no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Siedman with a Second offered by Ms. Schloss and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher
Council Secretary