

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 18, 2014**

Ms. Butch called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

Roll Call

Present: (8) Asprocolas, Bailey, Butch, Denardo, Kuczinski, Marra, Schloss (7:31 pm),
Siedman

Absent: (2) Morelli, Romano

Public Comment Session: No public in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A Motion to approve the September 11, 2014, minutes was made by Mr. Marra with a Second offered by Ms. Siedman.

AYES: (7) Bailey, Butch, Denardo, Kuczinski, Marra, Schloss, Siedman

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Correspondence

- **Monmouth County Park System** dated 11/03/14: Grant Application #14-12, Millstone Park Phase I Development, has been deemed administratively complete.

Old Business

- **Trails:** Ms. Butch had nothing new to report on the Industrial Park, White Birch and Doctors Creek trails.
- **Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant Application:** The application for Millstone Park Phase I Development, in the amount of \$250,000 has been deemed administratively complete. Grant award announcements should be made by the end of this year.

New Business

- **Term Expirations:** The following terms expire on 12/31/14:
 - George Asprocolas, Alternate 1
 - Charlie Denardo, Seat 5
 - Mike Kuczinski, Township Committee Liaison
 - Diane Morelli, Seat 3
 - Merrill Siedman, Seat 4

Ms. Butch asked Council members if anyone was opposed to being reappointed. All members indicated that they were in favor of reappointment.

- **Proposed Schedule of Meetings for 2015:** The following schedule was distributed for review. The meeting schedule will be approved at the January 2015 meeting.

January 22, 2015
February 26, 2015
March 26, 2015

April 23, 2015
May 28, 2015
June 25, 2015
July 23, 2015
August 27, 2015
September 24, 2015
October 22, 2015
November 19, 2015 (Third Thursday due to Thanksgiving holiday)
December 17, 2015 (Third Thursday due to Christmas holiday)
January 28, 2016

- **Goals & Budget:** Ms. Butch has been asked to report the Council's 2015 goals and budget request to the Township Committee. Mr. Denardo indicated that collecting money owed from the State should be a priority. Ms. Butch explained that while the referendum question regarding open space funding passed in November, the State has not determined how the funding will be allocated among the various groups that include Green Acres, Blues Acres, Farmland Preservation, Historic Preservation and urban parks and gardening. The final decision on the allocation of funding will be made by the Legislature and must be signed off by the Governor. Ms. Butch indicated that funding will not be available until mid 2016 and that landowners will need to understand that the Township can accept applications and can have projects ready to go but there will be no acquisitions until funding is in place. Ms. Butch explained that the Township will receive the money that is owed for Green Acres acquisitions but it will be a matter of time.

The Council will need to make a determination regarding the annual clambake fundraiser and any other fundraisers in 2015.

Committee Reports

- **Finance:** The Open Space Trust activity report for the period January 1, 2014, through November 30, 2014, was distributed for review. No discussion.
- **Public Relations/Publications:** No newsletters were published in 2014. Ms. Butch does not have the time to dedicate to producing a newsletter. Council members will need to decide if producing a newsletter will be a goal for 2015.
- **Legislative Awareness** Ms. Butch discussed the following legislative items.
 - **Soil Disturbance on Preserved Farms:** The SADC released draft regulations on soil disturbance on preserved farms. Ms. Butch provided the web address to the draft regulations: <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/news/hottopics/index.html> and explained that the draft regulations set limits on soil disturbance and impervious coverage that were not included in the Deeds of Easement. The new regulations can prevent greenhouses from being built on preserved farms. There is no grandfather clause in the new regulations. This regulation hampers a preserved farm owner from staying viable and competing with farms that are not preserved and not subject to the SADC soil disturbance regulations.
 - **Sales Tax on Equine and Stall Rentals:** Ms. Butch will be monitoring this legislation.
 - **Labor housing and labor issues** are surfacing and affect farm operations.
- **Stewardship:** Nothing to report per Ms. Siedman.

- **Review Planning Board and Board of Adjustment Applications:** The Perl Acres South contract has been signed by all funding partners and is at the State for signature. The Township's portion of the funding is in place.

At 7:55 pm, a Motion was made by Mr. Denardo with a Second offered by Ms. Siedman and by unanimous vote the Council moved to executive session.

At 10:00 pm the Council returned to open session.

Ms. Butch asked Council members to identify 2015 goals and budget items. Goals identified include:

- To amend the documented process for farmland preservation.
- Obtain an accounting from the State of money owed to the Township along with a timeline for reimbursement.
- Determine if the Council will hold a clambake fundraiser in 2015.
- Determine if a newsletter will be published in 2015 or if some other form of communication can be utilized for informing residents about open space and farmland preservation.
- Request funding for education.
- Request funding for advertising.

Ms. Butch asked the Secretary to review the 2014 meeting minutes and compile a list of accomplishments to provide to the Township Committee. The Secretary will email the list to Council members for review and input.

The Secretary will submit a request to the Recreation Department to reserve Sunday, June 7, and Sunday, June 14, for the Clambake.

At 10:19 pm, having no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Denardo with a Second offered by Mr. Asprocolas and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 10:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher
Council Secretary