

MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, November 19, 2015
215 Millstone Road, Millstone Twp, NJ 08535

Ms. Siedman called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

Roll Call

Present: (6) Asprocolas, Denardo, Kozak, Marra, Schloss, Siedman

Absent: (5) Bailey, Butch, Kuczinski, Morelli, Romano

Public Comment Session: Opened and closed at 7:38 pm. No public in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A Motion to approve the October 22, 2015, minutes was made by Ms. Schloss with a Second offered by Mr. Denardo. Roll call vote:

AYES: (4) Schloss, Denardo, Kozak, Marra

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Correspondence

- **Letter from SADC dated 10/28/15 re:** NJ Right to Farm Act and NJ Agricultural Mediation Program Fast Sheets. The letter and fact sheets were distributed to Council members via email on 10/29/15. Hardcopies of the correspondence were provided at the meeting for Council members to review.

Old Business

- **Municipal Farmland Preservation Process Document Update:** The Secretary provided copies of the updated document which incorporates the Agricultural Advisory Council's roles and responsibilities. Updates are highlighted in yellow. Supporting documentation was also provided including:
 1. Municipal Planning Incentive Grant Easement Purchase Application for an Individual Farm
 2. N.J.A.C. 2:76 - 6.16 Criteria for Evaluating development easement applications
 3. N.J.A.C. 2:76 - 6.20 Minimum eligibility criteria
 4. SADC Policy P-14-E Prioritization of Project Areas and Individual Applications
 5. N.J. Statute Title 4 section 4:1C-43.1, Farmland preservation planning incentive grant program

Ms. Siedman explained that the documentation is too extensive to be reviewed during this meeting and asked Mr. Marra to review the documentation and forward questions and comments to the Secretary. Mr. Asprocolas explained that the responsibilities of each council should be spelled out to avoid the confusion that arose during the preservation of the Kaut Farm which was dropped from the Open Space Council's meeting agenda. Ms. Siedman reiterated the comment that Mr. Kuczinski made during a previous meeting stating that the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council's responsibilities would not be diminished in any way and both Councils must work together on farmland preservation projects.

- **Preservation Updates:** The Kaut Farm closed on October 29th.

- **Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant #12-04, Baird Homestead Development Project:** No update due to Mr. Kuczinski's absence. Ms. Schloss explained that she had the opportunity to take a tour of the Baird House and property after her mother donated antiques to the Baird Homestead. Ms. Schloss further explained that a lot of work has been done at the site. The installation of a brick walkway, which is being done as an Eagle Scout project, is currently underway.
- **Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant #14-12 - Millstone Park Phase 1 Development:** Mr. Denardo explained that the next ad hoc committee meeting will be held next week and more information will be available after the perc test results are received.
- **Historic ME Church:** The grant application has been deemed complete. Grant awards will be announced in December.
- **Trail Maintenance & Grants:** A response to the extension request for the 2011 trail grant has not been received to date.

New Business

- There was no new business presented at the meeting.

Events

- **2016 NJ Land Conservation Rally:** The annual Land Rally will be held on Friday, March 18, 2016, at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Trenton. The Secretary will forward workshop details when they become available. Members who are interested in attending the Rally should notify the Secretary.

Committee Reports

- **Finance:** The Open Space Trust activity report with information through October was distributed for review.
- **Public Relations/Publications:** Council members discussed the article on the closing of Showplace Farms that appeared in the Examiner. The article erroneously stated that Showplace Farms paid \$2.5 million in property taxes in 2015. The \$2.5 million amount represents the assessed value of the property in 2015. Property taxes paid in 2015 were approximately \$60,000.
- **Legislative Awareness:** No discussion.
- **Stewardship:** Mr. Marra has volunteered to take the lead on stewardship. Ms. Siedman requested but, to date, has not been given any assignments from Ms. D'Andrea. Ms. Siedman explained that properties should be monitored every 5 to 6 years at the least and will compile a list of properties that are due for monitoring. Ms. Siedman and Mr. Marra will make arrangements to meet and go over the monitoring process; all Council members are welcome to participate in the stewardship process.
- **Review Planning Board and Board of Adjustment Applications:** Mr. Bailey is in attendance at the Board of Adjustment meeting that is taking place this evening.

At 7:57 pm a Motion was made by Mr. Denardo with a Second offered by Mr. Marra and by unanimous vote the Council moved to executive session to discuss a land acquisition project.

At 8:29 pm the Council returned to regular session. Ms. Siedman announced that if there is no new or urgent business to discuss, the December 17th meeting will be cancelled and the Secretary will notify Council members regarding the status of the meeting closer to the meeting date. Ms. Siedman noted that Ms. Butch's term expires this year and that during previous meetings Ms. Butch has stated that this will be her last term on this Council. Ms. Siedman acknowledged Ms. Butch's contributions to the Township's open space program and wanted to publicly thank Ms. Butch for all she has accomplished during her tenure on the Council.

Having no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Siedman with a Second offered by Mr. Denardo and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher
Council Secretary