

MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, August 30, 2018
215 Millstone Road, Millstone Twp, NJ 08535

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

The flag salute was lead by Ms. Butch.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

Roll Call

Present: (7) Asprocolas, Butch, Grbelja, Madeam, Marra, Rosenfeld, Scott

Absent: (3) Blackwell, Morelli, Oxley

Public Comment: Opened and closed at 7:33 pm.

Approval of Minutes

A Motion to approve the July 26, 2018, minutes was made by Ms. Scott with a Second offered by Ms. Rosenfeld.

AYES: (4) Butch, Grbelja, Madeam, Rosenfeld, Scott

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Correspondence:

Old Business

- Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant #12-04: Baird Homestead Development Project. Nothing new, everything complete but the windmill.
- Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant #14-12: Park is moving Along and is projected to open in 2019. Ms. Butch noted the park is about eighty percent complete.
- Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant #17-03: Moving forward and expecting to close within about a month and a half.
- Fall 2018 Newsletter: One article is complete, Ms. Rosenfeld did not hear back from the Wolf's. All articles will be sent to the secretary to be reviewed and Ms. Oxley will help with formatting.
- Municipal PIG Rule Amendment Proposal from SADC: Ms. Butch asked the council for any comments. Ms. Butch noted that the request for comments seems to come during the summer when it's the busiest time for farmers so she would like to suggest they send out when the farmers are not so busy. Ms. Butch also noted that they make note of the master plan elements updated every ten years. They also want to require the Farmland Plan to also be updated every 10 years. She would like to suggest that they both be updated at the same time. Ms. Butch also noted that they are proposing requiring the Township Committee to include a letter of approval with applications. Another proposed rule is removing the strict deadlines for review. Ms. Butch noted that in the past they have not had any issues with deadlines and feels it may slow the process down further. They also want to create a competitive fund. What they would like to do is reduce the base grant and increase a competitive fund. Ms. Butch also is concerned as to when you would apply for the competitive fund. She would like to see an earlier commitment for funds. They are also requiring the Agricultural Advisory Council to be more involved and sign off on more items during the process. The SADC is very impressed with the work that has been done in our town and they have asked if we would like to host a workshop. Mr.

Asprocolas asked if this rule change will encourage towns to start and maintain an Agricultural Council. Deputy Mayor Grbelja noted that a discussion had taken place a couple years ago about separating the duties of the Ag and Open Space Councils. Mr. Marra asked if this was the same item that we changed about a year or so ago. Deputy Mayor Grbelja noted that there were changes in the ordinance, but it did not reflect what the law required. It gives decision making to both parties. Deputy Mayor Grbelja will ask the attorney to look at the revisions once they are adopted and she will ask for guidance on what both councils should be responsible for. Ms. Butch also noted a comment about an allocation of funds.

- 2018 Clambake Wrap-up (Final Report): Ms. Scott is very happy with the final numbers.
- Park Guide: Council members discussed what parts of the guide they will work on. Mr. Marra offered to do Abate Park, Ms. Morelli horse trails, Ms. Rosenfeld will do Rocky Brook and Ms. Butch has completed the Baird Homestead and the Cultural Center.
- Parks Ordinance: Ms. Butch provided a copy of the Monmouth County guide to compare items. Township Committee will make the final changes to ordinances.
- Drone: Mr. Madeam introduced the technology to the group and feels it will help be more proficient. Mr. Madeam put together a presentation of a drone that would be best for the council's needs. He also included an infrared lens that will give the ability to use during the night. The drone will be able to survey property, look for animals, deer counts, stewardship and other council items. Mr. Asprocolas asked about no fly zones. Mr. Madeam noted that they change regularly. All drones have to be registered with the FAA. The presentation will also be provided to the Agricultural Advisory Council.

New Business:

- Municipal PIG Workshop: Millstone will be hosting a SADC workshop on October 10th. The cultural center will need to be cleaned and grass cut. Secretary will order a portable restroom and have light snacks on hand.

Events

- Millstone Day: Ms. Butch, Ms. Rosenfeld, Ms. Scott and Mr. Madeam offered to help with the open space table. The secretary will ask DPW to supply table and chairs. Ms. Rosenfeld will work on a selfie station and the secretary will work on the display table.

Committee Reports

- Finance: Deputy Mayor Grbelja stated Millstone received a million dollars from SADC for the 2019 funding year. We are only one of six municipalities to receive five hundred thousand to a million dollars. This is due to our current projects in place. Mayor Deputy Mayor stated previously we had lost funding in 2016 for 2017 funding due to inactivity. As long as applications are being pursued, there should be no problem for funding. Deputy Mayor Grbelja thanked the Council and the Agricultural Council for all their hard work. Ms. Butch will contact Ms. Jones regarding the Green Acres funding round.

- Fundraising: Nothing to report.
- Grant Writing: Ms. Butch submitted the Monmouth County Open Space Grant.
- Legislative Awareness: Currently watching the fifteen dollar minimum wage and the plastic bag ban.
- OSFP Inventory, Stewardship & Management: Ms. Scott was waiting on the verbiage from attorney regarding the drone.
- Planning Board and Board of Adjustment Review: Nothing to report.
- Public Relations, Publications & Education: Nothing to report.

At 9:26 PM, a Motion to move to executive session was made by Mr. Asprocolas with a Second offered by Mr. Marra.

AYES: (7) Asprocolas, Butch, Madeam, Marra, Rosenfeld, Scott, Deputy Mayor
Grbelja

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

At 9:46 PM the Council returned to regular session.

Ms. Butch spoke about regarding the fire inspections that are being performed on farms within the state. Many towns have been trying to push the inspections off until at least the farming season begins to slow down. Towns are asking the Fire Officials to consider the timing for farmers. Mr. Marra brought a copy of the letter noting that the fire officials are required to complete the inspections. Any farmers that have any issues should call the Farm Bureau with any questions or concerns. Ms. Butch will work with both Councils on coordinating a meeting.

Having no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Asprocolas with a Second offered by Ms. Scott and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 9:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Peerboom
Council Secretary