

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
March 27, 2019**

Chairman Butch called the Meeting to Order at 7:43 p.m.

Adequate Notice was read.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Asprocolas, Chairman Butch, Vice-Chairman Peck,
Absent: Mr. Dancer, Ms. Pinhas, Ms. Posten
Guests: Deputy Mayor Grbelja, Township Committee Liaison

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: January 23, 2019

Vice Chairman Peck made a Motion to approve the Minutes and Mr. Asprocolas offered a Second. Roll Call Vote: Asprocolas, Butch, and Peck voted yes to approve the meeting minutes.

Public Comments: None, No public in attendance.

Correspondence: None

OLD BUSINESS:

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN: Mr. Asprocolas discussed the deer spotlight that took place in early March. There were a total of (3) nights to complete the town. During this time there were about 300 sightings and counted over 1,014 deer. There was also some discussion regarding the use of drones for deer count. Currently the NJDEP does not utilize a drone in their counts but is looking to acquire one in the future. Chairman Butch also noted that the Farm Bureau may also be looking to perform a deer count with a drone in Monmouth County.

LARGE ANIMAL OEM PLAN: Ms. Butch had nothing to report at this time

FARM LEASE: Nothing to report.

OPEN SPACE TRUST: Chairman Butch discussed the open public meeting regarding the Township's budget. During this budget discussion was an item of maintenance specifically grass cutting was \$170,000. Chairman Butch is waiting for clarification if this was for all parks or public land. This lead to the question could it be taken from the Open Space Trust, though this has never been the practice. Mr. Asprocolas noted the Township has always acquired properties and had been able to perform maintenance on those properties out of the general budget. Mr. Asprocolas asked is that was something the fund even allowed. Chairman Butch stated that when the referendum was created, in discussion it was made clear that the funds would be used for land preservation, farmland preservation, and historic preservation until there was no more land to be purchased. Then those funds could be used to develop and help maintain Township properties. The current Open Space Trust. If the Township Committee were to take the funds for maintenance, that would not leave enough for Account is unable to sustain additional withdrawals and still have the ability to preserve land. The current fund receives 1.1 million in annual revenue. Currently the Open Space account pays out debt service which is due to increase by next year to \$625,000. There is also a yearly matching grant in which the Township pays of \$250,000. That leaves \$225,000 balance each year towards land preservation.

Spring Newsletter: Chairman Butch discussed the copy of the newsletter. There are two articles that need to be added. Chairman Butch also added the number of preserved lands could also be added as page filler. Everyone is in agreement to add a page to the newsletter.

Land Rally: Chairman Butch noted that the Land Rally is April 12, 2019. Mr. Asprocolas noted that he responded to the email and confirmed his attendance. Mr. Peck would like to attend also. Chairman Butch will also be attending.

Pending Legislation and Regulation: Ms. Butch discussed that she has multiple pages of legislation. She will scan and send to the Secretary and ask that she send to everyone. Mr. Peck suggested that they have a meet and greet with legislatures. Chairman Butch noted possibly combining with Ocean County.

2019 Clam Bake: Mr. Asprocolas noted that he has spoken to Ms. Scott regarding his attendance at the clam bake. He may also bring his own dish as a compliment, not as one of the offerings.

New Business:

OS Trust: Discussed earlier in the meeting

Livestock Summit: Chairman Butch stated it went very well. They had about 50 attendees. It was well received. It was hosted by the Board of Managers. The main discussion was meat processing. Also discussed animal diseases and pasture management.

Letter of Support for Processing Study Grant: Chairman Butch noted that the Department of Ag asked for letter to support their grant. It has been well received in Monmouth County.

Deer Management Meeting: Chairman Butch discussed having another meeting once the numbers have been received for the deer spotlight survey. Chairman Butch would like to invite the two speakers from the Monmouth Conservation presentation and have the meeting open to Millstone Residents. The Council would like the Township Committee to also host with the Ag Council.

Seeing no further business at this time, Mr. Asprocolas made a motion to leave the regular session and enter into the Executive Session to discuss pending preservation. Vice-Chairman Peck offered a Second and by unanimous, the Council left the Regular Session at 8:53 p.m.

Seeing no further business at this time, Mr. Asprocolas made a Motion to adjourn the meeting and Vice-Chairman Peck offered a Second and by unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Peerboom