

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
October 23, 2019**

Chairman Butch called the Meeting to Order at 7:38 p.m.

Adequate Notice was read.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Asprocolas, Chairman Butch, Vice-Chairman Peck, Ms. Pinhas

Absent: Mr. Dancer, Ms. Posten

Guests: Deputy Mayor Grbelja

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: September 28, 2019

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

Public Comments: None, No public in attendance.

Correspondence: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan: - The planners sent over a draft on the sections they have worked on. The council was asked to take home and review, and will provide comments to the secretary.

Wildlife Management Plan: Mr. Asprocolas was not able to get information on the insurance issue. He noted that the population continues to rise and also noted there seems to be a record amount of abnormalities in the herd this year. Hunters are allowed to bait deer, but residents should avoid feeding the deer. Mr. Peck noted that some towns have outlawed feeding deer. The council will start a file regarding articles on the deer issue. There has also been continued damage to crops due to the large population of deer. It has been difficult to avoid. There has been a anywhere from 50 – 60% of crop loss and unfortunately insurance does not cover deer damage.

Large Animal OEM Plan: Nothing to report.

Farm Lease: Nothing to report.

Open Space Trust: The council noticed continued engineering costs for the park.

Newsletter: Ms. Butch is working on the article for the newsletter. Ms. Posten has also contributed an article. The council will also put together information on the hazelnuts coop with the ag extension and grown in Monmouth. Ms. Pinhas will help with an article on the FFA for the Spring newsletter.

Pending Legislation and Regulation: Chairman Butch discussed the release of millions of dollars in funds that were being held by the governor. Next will be the concern on the minimum wage. Farms are struggling with the price of labor. Chairman Butch noted the conventions are

coming up soon and there should be some additional information coming soon. Viability of farming is going to be an issue moving forward.

Events: The 22nd annual NJ Land Conservation Rally will be held on March 20, 2019 at the Palace at Somerset Park in Somerset, New Jersey. They are currently looking for presenters. The Farm Bureau convention will be coming up in a couple weeks. The Farm Bureau convention will take place November 18th & 19th.

NEW BUSINESS:

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 preservations. Ms. Pinhas offered a Second and by unanimous, the Council left the Regular Session at 8:35 p.m.

Chairman Butch noted there was a ribbon cutting ceremony yesterday, at the Rutgers Fruit and Ornamental Research Extension Center on Route 539 in Cream Ridge. The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders announced the partnership between the County's Grown in Monmouth program and Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station to develop a hazelnut farmer demonstration research orchard.

Seeing no further business at this time, Ms. Pinhas made a Motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Asprocolas offered a Second and by unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Peerboom