MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 22, 2020

Chairman Butch called the Meeting to Order at 7:30 p.m.

Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Asprocolas.. Butch, Butewicz, Pinhas

Absent: Peck. Posten

Guests: Deputy Mayor Grbelja

REORGANIZATION

COUNCIL APPOINTMENT: Chairman Butch read the resolution appointing Ms. Butch, Mr. Asprocolas, and Ms. Butewicz for two year appointments. Ms. Scott was also appointed as our Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board Representative.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Pinhas made a Motion to nominate Pat Butch as Chairman and Mr. Asprocolas offered a Second.

Roll Call Vote: Asprocolas, Butch, Butewicz and Pinhas voted yes to appoint Ms. Butch.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Ms. Pinhas made a Motion to nominate George Asprocolas as Vice-Chairman and Ms. Butewicz offered a Second.

Roll Call Vote: Asprocolas, Butch, Butewicz, and Pinhas voted yes to appoint Mr. Asprocolas.

DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS:

The Asbury Park Press and The Times of Trenton

Mr. Asprocolas made a Motion to designate the above papers as the official council newspapers and Ms. Pinhas offered a Second. Roll Call Vote: Asprocolas, Butch, Butewicz, and Pinhas voted yes to the designation.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: October 23, 2019

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: The meeting was open to the public at 7:35pm. Harold and Brianna were in attendance a recently bought the previous Sinha Farm. They are inquiring about assistance for what they can do with the farm. So they were hoping to talk to some other farmers in town for some ideas they could do for farming. Possibly also interested in Bee Keeping and will need to receive some education. The Council gave contact information for the County Ag Agent, Bill Erickson, to speak to and also mentioned contacting farmers at the Hightstown Co-op. They may also be interested in agritourism. The council thanked them for attending and hope to hear back from them soon.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS:

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN: Chairman Butch said the next step is to discuss with the Township Committee. Speakers from Rutgers will be invited to help discuss on how to take the next steps to implement a plan. Chairman Butch said the policies for the parks will be discussed and she would like to place something in there regarding a future deer management plan. Options will need to be reviewed.

LARGE ANIMAL OEM PLAN: Chairman Butch noted that she is no longer on that committee and will not be reporting monthly. Deputy Mayor Grbelja noted that the Fire Department is knowledgeable and if have any questions they will reach out to the Township.

FARM LEASE: Nothing to report.

OPEN SPACE TRUST: Council reviewed. Chairman Butch noted we received the funds from the County for Burnt Tavern Road and Cady. The council would like a report from Green Acres.

COMPREHENSIVE FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN:

Chairman Butch asked everyone to please review the handout of the current update. Everyone will discuss at the next meeting.

PENDING LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS: None

EVENTS: New Jersey Land Conservation Rally: Friday, March 20, 2020 at the Palace at Somerset Park in Somerset, NJ.

NEW BUSINESS

2020 Meeting Schedule: Previously approved.

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Members reviewed the list of accomplishments and discussed what items were completed.

2020 GOALS: The council was provided a list of goals to review.

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. Butewicz offered a Second and by unanimous, the Council left the Regular Session at 8:48 p.m.

Seeing no further business at this time, Mr. Asprocolas made a Motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Pinhas offered a Second and by unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Peerboom