

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 23, 2021**

Chairperson Butch called the Meeting to Order at 7:31 p.m.

Chairperson Butch read the Adequate Notice.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Asprocolas, Butch, Butewicz, Peck, Posten

Absent: None

Guests: Deputy Mayor Grbelja, Township Committee Liaison

PUBLIC COMMENTS: At 7:32 p.m., Chairperson Butch opened the meeting to the public. Seeing no public comments, Chairperson Butch closed the public comment portion at 7:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: January 27, 2021 Mr. Asprocolas made the motion to approve the minutes with amendments and Mr. Peck offered a second. Roll call Vote: Asprocolas, Peck, Butch and Butewicz voted yes to approve with amendments.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairperson Butch reviewed the email received from Steven Bruder, SADC, regarding the Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan.

Chairperson Butch reviewed the email from Lynn Lemyre, SADC, regarding the Farmland Preservation Program's Fiscal Year 2021 appropriation bills.

OLD BUSINESS:

Deer Management - The Council discussed the mapping out of the potential bowhunting for deer.

Deputy Mayor Grbelja stated to just keep in mind of the residents when choosing these lots and there needs to be enforcement for the hunters.

Mr. Asprocolas stated the hunters would have to be certified. There will have to be postings of the specific parameters.

DM/Grbelja would like all four locations discussed as possible areas for bowhunters. These parcels are not being used.

Vice Chairperson Butewicz would like the permits to be limited to avoid hundreds of bowhunters. It should be limited to 10 – 20 permits.

Ms. Posten will advise of the damage caused by the overpopulation of deer.

Mr. Peck, Vice Chairperson Butewicz and Mr. Asprocolas will formulate a plan and Ms. Posten will work on the logistics.

Chairperson Butch would like to include the survey responses.

Mr. Asprocolas will include Dr. Jay Kelly of Raritan Valley Community College's presentation of, "Impacts of Deer & Invasive Plant Species on Forests".

Ms. Butewicz will speak about the benefits of eliminating some of the deer overpopulation. This will include avoiding tick borne disease and meat being donated to the food pantry.

JCP&L Service During Outages - The Council will put together a letter of support for Assemblyman Dancer's bill package to force the utility company to do a better job for the future.

Mr. Peck spoke with Monmouth County in regards to generator supply and the County suggested to speak with the County OEM to request the generators. The County feels the agriculture reasoning for distributing generators would make a good case.

Mr. Asprocolas would like to approach the County for portable generators.

DM/Grbelja reminded the Council that all municipal sites have a generator through FEMA. The Township would need 5 – 10 generators to keep food sources available. There would have to be a plan in place to assist farmers when there is an issue.

Mr. Peck will be writing to the County in regards to the Township acquiring the generators.

Park in the Park Movie Nights – The Open Space Preservation Council will be assisting the Friends of Millstone Township Historic Registered Properties who will be hosting the movies, and will be moving forward with Park in the Park Movie Nights to raise money for Open Space to do programming for residents.

NEW BUSINESS:

Clambake – Mr. Asprocolas spoke with the Chairperson of Open Space Preservation Council, Kelly Scott, and they had brainstormed the idea of having the fundraiser to have the clambake on the same day of the Park in the Park Movie Night. The participants can order the food during Park in the Park and have dinner and a movie. We will plan more on this and come back to it.

The Council agreed to having this outdoor event.

Spring Newsletter – Chairperson Butch stated the Open Space Preservation Council made a deadline of March 1, 2021 for the articles to be in by for the biannual OS and Ag newsletter.

The Council discussed possible articles they can contribute to the newsletter.

Chairperson Butch made a motion to leave the regular session and enter into the Executive Session to discuss pending farmland preservation. Mr. Peck offered a Second and the Council unanimously moved to executive session at 8:56 p.m.

Farmland Preservation – Mr. Asprocolas made a motion to approve the pending farmland preservation application to move forward and Mr. Peck offered a second. Roll Call: Asprocolas, Peck, Butch, Butewicz and Posten

With no further business Mr. Peck made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Asprocolas offered a second.

Respectfully Submitted,

