

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 12, 2023**

Ms. Butewicz called the Meeting to Order at 7:35 p.m.

Adequate Notice read at 7:36 p.m. by Chairperson Butewicz

ROLL CALL:

Present: Ms. Butch, Ms. Butewicz, Mr. Peck, Ms. Posten (7:39)

Absent: Deputy Mayor Morris; Mr. Asprocolas, Ms. Coppinger

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No Public

MEETING MINUTES:

September 12, 2023 Minutes - Chairperson Butewicz made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilperson Peck offered a second.

Roll Call: Butch, Butewicz and Peck voted in favor

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1) SADC Municipal PIG Program - Council reviewed the list from last year. No new farms have been preserved since the last application. 1 farm has been given the Green Light to proceed to appraisal stage. Spring Rd farm can be removed since the Twp has purchased the property through Open Space. The secretary will go through the property list and update the names. 1 farmed property around Stillhouse Road should be added. The Council received the County target list. Gateway Farm should not be removed until a final decision is reached on the future of that property.
- 2) SADC Proposed Soil Protection Standards – The SADC has put forth new soil protection standards for preserved farmlands. The farming community is strongly opposed to the new standards especially since they are retroactive to properties that already have agreements in place. New impervious coverage limits will negatively impact farms and their values. Farming viability is already an issue without imposing additional restrictions. A public meeting is scheduled for September 27th at 6:00pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

Newsletter: Open Space is doing the Fall newsletter. Amy will provide an article on bamboo as an invasive species. Open Space had a lot of ideas for articles so they should be good with material.

Municipal Labor Housing Ordinance: There is a proposal sponsored by NJ Assembly-person Alex Sauickie. The Ag Council should review the proposal. There are a lot of issues to address in regards to the various types of housing as well as septic and well issues.

Deer population management: Chairperson Butewicz and Vice Chairperson Asprocolas will work on a plan to present after the harvest season is completed. As the deer population continues to expand, the public's attention to the issue will increase.

Millstone Day: Held this past Sunday at Millstone Park. The rain kept a lot of vendors and residents away. Ag was set up in the Green Fair tent. We would like to thank Asprocolas Farms for providing delicious apples for the residents that attended.

NEW BUSINESS:

Speed Reduction Horse and Farm Equipment – The AG council discussed efforts to re-educate the public about the need to slow down when approaching horse riders and slow moving farm equipment. The council will look at what requirements might be needed to permit lawn or road signs around town.

Chairperson Butewicz moved to go to executive session at 8:35pm.

Council returned from Executive session at 9:08 PM

Seeing no further business, Councilperson Peck moved to adjourn. Chairperson Butewicz offered a second. Meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew DeFelice