

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 14, 2025**

Ms. Butewicz called the Meeting to Order at 7:33 p.m.

Ms. Butewicz read the Adequate Notice at 7:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Asprocolas, Ms. Butch, Ms. Butewicz, Ms. Coppinger, Mr. Peck

Absent: Ms. Posten

APPOINTMENT OF THE COUNCILPERSONS: Resolution 25-17 Committee person Ziner offered the resolution to move its adoption and seconded by councilwoman Zabrosky.

Ms. Patricia Butch is appointed member of the Agriculture Advisory Council for seat #2 for a 2 year term commencing January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2026.

Mr. Peck is appointed to seat #3 for a 2 year term commencing January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2026.

Ms. Posten is appointed to seat #4 for 2 year term commencing January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2026.

Be it further resolved that, a copy of this resolution certified by the municipal clerk to be a true copy forwarded to the Agricultural Advisory Council and each of the appointees. Millstone Township Committee will adopt this resolution at its meeting on January 27, 2025 as recorded by Kathleen Hart, municipal clerk.

Ms. Butewicz congratulated Ms. Butch, Mr. Peck, and Ms. Posten and thanked them for their service. Confidentiality agreements will be mailed out.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Asprocolas nominated Ms. Butewicz for chairperson. Ms. Butch seconded Ms. Butewicz. Mr. Peck moved for nominations to be closed. Motion to approve Ms. Butewicz as chairperson for 2025 ag council calendar. Ms. Coppinger, Ms. Butch, Mr. Peck, and Mr. Posten all voted to approve Ms. Butewicz as the chairperson.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Asprocolas nominated Ms. Butch for vice-chairperson. Mr. Peck seconded. Ms. Butch will accept if no one further would wish to be nominated. Mr. Asprocolas made a motion that nominations are closed, and Mr. Peck seconded this. Mr. Asprocolas, Ms. Butch, Ms. Butewicz, Mr. Peck Ms. Coppinger all voted Ms. Butch as the vice-chairperson.

Ms. Butewicz welcomed Ms. Butch back for year of 2025.

MEETING SCHEDULE: The council agreed to continue to meet in a virtual format on zoom. Meeting dates as listed for the second Tuesday of the month:

February 11, 2025
April 8, 2025

March 11, 2025
May 13, 2025

June 10, 2025
August 12, 2025
October 14, 2025
December 9, 2025

July 8, 2025
September 9, 2025
November 11, 2025
January 13, 2026

Mr. Asprocolas made a motion to accept these dates. Mr. Peck seconded. Ms. Coppinger, Ms. Butch and Ms. Butewicz have also accepted.

Zoom. **Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6755709146?pwd=TGV4aXZ5RGZEdFJoNGxkYkI3YVRYQT09&omn=86261834540>

Meeting ID: 675 570 9146 Password: 123

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Opened to the public at 7:44pm

Mr. Ryan Walker entered the meeting at 7:44pm. Katie Mazzella from the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) was also in attendance.

Mr. Walker inquired about if the value of the Hom Farm was known. Ms. Butch said unless they do an updated appraisal at their request the town does not pay for another appraisal. Non-public information cannot be given out at this time, only what the farm may want to share as it is not publicly listed.

Katie Mazzella relayed that there is an online meeting this Thursday January 16, 2025 in regards to the soil protection rules. Ms. Mazzella states that on January 23, 2025 the regular SADC meeting will discuss and finalize the alternate appraisal statewide formula value. Ms. Mazzella said that their next generation farmer program hired two coordinators that put a survey out for anyone connected to farming. They are looking for potential mentors or people who have land and may want to lease it to new beginner farmers. 160 acres of farm land was purchased in Mercer County since December.

Current head of State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) is the deputy director Chuck Roohr since Susan Payne retired. SADC has not received their budget this year yet but it has been approved.

Ms. Butch noted that Rutgers received \$5.5 million with special appropriations for NJAES.

Katie Mazzella conferred that she had no other updates.

Public comment was closed at 7:57pm.

MEETING MINUTES:

December 10, 2024 Minutes – Ms. Butewicz made a motion to approve.

Roll Call: Mr. Asprocolas, Ms. Butch, Ms. Butewicz voted in favor

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Spring Newsletter: The Secretary will send out dates for getting articles in. Discuss ideas to move forward with for this newsletter. Ms. Butch would like to include something in regards to the history of agriculture and how it has been a key part of Millstone Township. Mushroom farm can be interviewed including pictures. Ms. Butewicz would like to include information regarding ticks and tick borne illness. Ms. Butewicz confirms to have everything sent to Andrew DeFelice by March 15, 2025. Ms. Butch suggests an article should be included in regards to the alternate appraisals as this could get more farmers interested to go into preservation.

Mr. Peck suggests that the two beginning farmer programs should be introduced in the newsletter.

State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) Soil Standards Update: Final details will be updated within the next month.

NEW BUSINESS:

Agriculture 2025 Budget: Nothing has been voted on yet, and will wait until next meeting to discuss. Mr. Peck inquires if there were an educational section on the budget. Ms. Butewicz says they did want to include this as well as the cost of mailing the newsletter. Ms. Butch asked for 2 newsletters to be included in the budget.

Seeing no further business, Ms. Butewicz motioned to adjourn. Mr. Peck seconded. Mr. Asprocolas seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julianna Tesar