

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP  
OPEN SPACE AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 25, 2020**

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic State of Emergency the Millstone Township Open Space Council meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. was conducted using a Conferencing platform. Members of the public have the option to attend the meeting by calling into 609-915-3444.

Chairman Scott called the Meeting to Order at 7 36 p.m.

The Adequate Meeting Notice was read.

Roll Call: Present: Butch, Butewicz, Datello, Grbelja, Madeam,  
Morelli, Scott and Riggin  
Absent: Blackwell, Oxley, and Smith

Chairman Scott opened the meeting to the public for the comment at 7:36 p.m. Seeing that there were no call-in public comments, Chairman Scott then closed the public comment portion at 7:38 p.m.

Approval of the May 28, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Ms. Butch read some suggested changes. The Council did not require to table the meeting until the July meeting. Deputy Mayor Grbelja made the Motion to approve and Ms. Butewicz offered a Second. Roll Call Vote: Grbelja, Butewicz, Blackwell, Butch, Madeam, Morelli, Oxley, Smith, Riggin and Scott voted yes to approve.

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

PARK GUIDE: Deputy Mayor Grbelja stated that there will not be any progress with the Park Guide, Mr. DeFelice is taking a leave of absence for one month beginning July. The guide will have to wait for him to return.

NEWSLETTER: Ms. Butewicz will have the article completed this weekend. Ms. Datello and Ms. D'Andrea will provide some photos for the article. Ms. Butewicz can also reach out to the Trapanis to have them provide some photos.

PARK ORDINANCE: Deputy Mayor Grbelja advised that she took the information that she had received from the group. She has highlighted sections to discuss. Deputy Mayor Grbelja presented that the important question is the difference between recreation and open space. Deputy Mayor Grbelja stated that recreation monitors recreational programs but should not be monitoring activities under Open Space, Trail Blazers, Millstone Township Friends of Historic Registered Properties (Friends),

Historic Preservation Commission (Historic) and 4-H Club, all not for profits. Deputy Mayor Grbelja explained that when for example, we host the Clam Bake, we do not want to seek permission from Recreation to utilize Wagner Farm Park. She offered that unless we clarify it, unless we change the verbiage, then Recreation can have authority over the above-mentioned groups. The reference for approval under Recreation does not fit.

In the first portion of the title that addresses purpose, 3-2, where active recreation is listed, Deputy Mayor Grbelja has no problem with that.

Equestrian: Ms. Butch advised that it says equestrian, but it can be bicycles as well. She advised that some parties do not want the installation of the triangular trail courtesy signage that provides the order that parties yield to horse, hiker, bicycle. Deputy Mayor Grbelja had the requirement that the triangular signs be followed and that was added to the Ordinance.

Deputy Mayor Grbelja stated that there are miles of trails that are not part of Millstone Park that were developed for biking and horseback riding. Even though those trails are not part of the Park, they are trails designed for horses. She offered that you should be able to use the Millstone Township trails and use the Millstone Park trails. This provides for far more area to allow riders to have a nice ride.

Ms. Butch explained that some of the trails in the Park area connecting to other trails. People will not want their horse to ride around the activities going on the Park. One of the items that Deputy Mayor Grbelja recommended as an ideal location for horse trailers and the unloading of horses was behind the area located behind where the storage building was located, allowing people access to get away from the active areas in the Park and get them to the trails that are connected closely to the area outside of Millstone Park.

Ms. Butch asked if the Ad Hoc Committee considered this passive or active recreation. Deputy Mayor Grbelja advised more passive rather than active recreation. There is a mixture of active and passive. She wanted to put this in the Ordinance, so we do not lose that thought.

Deputy Mayor Grbelja discussed Fees. There are activities considered as active recreation that have fees and approvals associated with it.

Prohibited uses of the parks and facilities. Hunting is prohibited. Deputy Mayor Grbelja stated that at the Agricultural Advisory Council meeting last evening, they discussed that farmers have posted blue signs, similar to the political signs, about deer killing their crops.

Picnic or lunch in non-designated areas. Deputy Mayor Grbelja stated that either we have no picnic tables there or there are very few so where are people going to eat lunch. She explained that when they designed the Park, they were going to purchase a food wagon. This did not come to fruition. She asked how can we tell someone they are not permitted to put down a blanket, eat lunch and clean up after themselves. We do not have an area for this. Littering is not permitted so people must clean up after themselves.

Deputy Mayor Grbelja discussed recent defacing of property at the Park in the form of spray-painting graffiti on the dock. There is evidence and the parties were arrested. She advised this is the third arrest to date.

Special Permits. Deputy Mayor Grbelja wants it clarified that the 4-H, etc. groups mentioned above, are not Recreation groups.

Chairman Scott feels that requiring deposits for the purposes of cleaning from anyone seeking to use the Wagner Farm Park building, including them, is reasonable. If the building is left clean, then the deposits can be returned. She offered that while we should not be charged to use the building, she feels that we should not be exempted from the cleaning deposit. This will assure that the building stays clean for the next group. She clarified the deposit would be for cleaning not for use of the facilities.

Deputy Mayor Grbelja advised that this is going to need further discussion.

Recreational Facility Policy Procedures. Field lights and court surfaces. Deputy Mayor Grbelja advised that this is where we go into The Cultural Center and The Thomas Baird Homestead which are under the auspices of the Friends group.

It is helpful that the Municipal Parks are under surveillance.

The Council discussed that many groups within the Township have the necessary insurance if they are covered by the Township's insurance.

Abate Park has a capacity of 150, Millstone Park has a capacity of up to 2,000, Rocky Brook and Wagner Farm Park have capacities of \_\_\_\_\_. This was important because these were the only fees listed.

Ordinance section 3.38 bicycles are highlighted.

The Council discussed that there is a lack of bicycle racks around the Township. Bicycles do not have kickstands. Deputy Mayor Grbelja stated that it is necessary for the riders to have some way to rest their bicycles. The Council discussed installing bicycle racks by the restrooms.

Equestrian Rules were taken from the Council's suggested rules. Deputy Mayor Grbelja emphasized that riders are responsible for their actions and their horses.

Township Waters. The suggestions made by Ms. Datello were incorporated. The Council discussed paddleboats being used. Ms. Datello stated that the Assunpink is large enough to facilitate paddle boats, but she does not feel that Millstone Park can properly facilitate fishing and the use of paddleboats at the same time. The space is limited.

Chairman Scott offered that if people are fishing it is not compatible with the boat activity. Deputy Mayor Grbelja advised that no gasoline powered boats are permitted and that has been eliminated from the Ordinance.

The fishing is strictly catch and release. Ms. Datello clarified that scented rubber worms are the bait of choice. No barbed hooks can be used which is in the Ordinance.

Deputy Mayor Grbelja reiterated the changes that they have suggested in the Ordinance are the installation of bicycles racks, parties must pick up after their dogs, the installation of picnic tables, the horse trailer location to be in the designated area behind where the old storage building stood. Ms. Butch will ask the Ad Hoc Committee to provide the Council with the final version and highlighted changes for their review.

Deputy Mayor Grbelja is sending the discussed suggested changes to Township Administrator Abernethy.

NEW BUSINESS: The Peplowski preservation has closed.

FINANCE. Deputy Mayor Grbelja went over the report.

FUNDRAISING: Chairman Scott presented her idea to host an outdoor Movie Night at Wagner Farm Park. Social distancing can be accomplished. Drive-in would not work because the parking lot is not situated to accommodate the ability to park and watch the movie. She offered that we could provide a concession stand for snacks. Potential days were discussed as Friday night with a rain date for Saturday night through the summer months.

There was discussion as to finding a projector or renting one. Research is needed to see what we would have to do to get permission to show a movie. Chairman Scott is reaching out to Mrs. Morris who had run a similar event.

The fee was discussed as \$5 for children and \$10 for adults. The spaces will be marked off as 10ft. x 10ft. sections. Chairman Scott asked everyone to help her research.

GRANT WRITING: Ms. Butch advised that there is a Grant that they are applying for challenger playground equipment for Millstone Park. She advised that the grant is for \$200,000.00, and hopefully we will receive \$140,000.00. The equipment will be located near the restrooms because it is a handicapped accessible location.

The playground equipment that is there presently will be moved to a better location. Chairman Scott asked if the equipment warranty would be nullified if the equipment was

moved. Ms. Butch advised if the company themselves moves the equipment then the warranty would still be in place.

LEGISLATIVE AWARENESS: Ms. Butch advised that presently it is about Covid 19's effect on the farms, farm market business who have been negatively impacted by the pandemic. They are trying to find ways to run the you pick-it farms and run farm markets to get their produce sold.

PLANNING BOARD/BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: Deputy Mayor Grbelja advised that there is a development located Prodelin Way and Route 33, Riverside Center, where the development is taking place on the border of Monroe and Millstone. She provided that Monroe has constructed a monstrous, unattractive, unsightly building on their portion of the property. Mayor Grbelja explained that when the developer came to the Planning Board recently for commercial development, they complied with the Township's architectural standard ordinance of their color pallet. The site is nicely landscaped and the berm that has been constructed is developing nicely. The applicant has followed what Millstone had required them to do. She stated that this is a testament to our Township standards.

Deputy Mayor Grbelja provide that we have done a lot by adopting a Master Plan and Ordinances that require that we have attractive and aesthetically pleasing buildings. The difference can be seen between Millstone and Monroe.

PUBLIC RELATIONS, PUBLICATIONS & EDUCATION: Nothing at this time

At \_\_\_\_\_ p.m., Deputy Mayor Grbelja made a Motion to leave the regular session and entered into the Executive Session to discuss preservation matters and Ms. Butch offered a Second. Roll call Vote: Grbelja, Butch, Butewicz, Datello, Madeam, Morelli, Scott, and Riggini

The Council returned to the regular session at 9:05 p.m., seeing no further business, Chairman Scott asked for a Motion and a Second to adjourn. Deputy Mayor Grbelja made a Motion to adjourn and Ms. Butch offered a Second and by unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,