

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP  
OPEN SPACE COUNCIL  
AUGUST 27, 2020  
MEETING MINUTES**

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic State of Emergency the Millstone Township Agricultural Development Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 27, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. will be conducted using a Conferencing platform. Members of the public have the option to attend the meeting by calling into 609-915-3444.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

Chairman Scott called the Meeting to Order at 7:41 p.m.

**READING OF ADEQUATE NOTICE**

Let the minutes show that adequate notice of this meeting, as required by P. L. 1975, Chapter 231, has been provided by publication in The Asbury Park Press and The Times of Trenton, posted on the Township bulletin board and filed with the Township Clerk on February 13, 2020.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Chairman Scott opened the public comment portion of the meeting to the public at 7:44 p.m. Seeing no public comment, she closed that portion of the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: JUNE 25, 2020**

Members having read the Meeting Minutes, Ms. Butewicz made the Motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Riggin offered a Second. Roll call Vote: Butewicz, Riggin, Blackwell, Grbelja, Madeam, Morelli and Scott voted yes to approve. Abstain: Butch.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

No correspondence received to discuss.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Park Guide:

Ms. Butch advised nothing new to report.

Fall Newsletter:

Ms. Butewicz has prepared and submitted the Bee article along with a photo. Photos are need for the newsletter. Ms. Datello will be providing those photos. Ms. Scott wrote her letter from the Chair and has submitted that. Ms. Butch is looking for someone to interview the Peplowskis for an article for the newsletter.

Park in the Park Movie Event:

An addition to the newsletter would be the success of the movie event "Park in the Park". Chairman Scott had a great deal of positive feedback about the event. She stated that it was nice to see everyone come together safely. Chairman Scott offered that photos of the sunset and the volunteers who worked the event should be included in the newsletter. Mr. Madeam advised that he could write that article. Ms. Butch stated that it should be submitted by September 15<sup>th</sup> to be in the Fall Newsletter.

Chairman Scott wants to thank the sponsors of the event and place that in the newsletter as well. Ms. Butch offered kudos to Chairman Scott for her contribution in making the event a success.

Chairman Scott reported that the cost of the event was \$5,500.00. The event brought in approximately \$14,000.00 in sponsorships. Ms. Butch reported that the sponsors made the event possible. The proposal was to use some of the Open Space and Agricultural sponsored Clam Bake Fundraiser funds to help get the Park in the Park event off the ground and then reimburse the fund and split the proceeds with the Friends of MTHRP who partner and work the Clam Bake event. This year, the Friends of MTHRP were unable to hold any fundraising events, due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Ms. Butch advised that the Friends will, once again, work the Clam Bake event in 2021.

Chairman Scott asked for a Motion and a Second to approve splitting the proceeds with the Friends of MTHRP to assist them in funding the Thomas Baird Homestead. Ms. Riggan made the Motion and Deputy Mayor Grbelja offered a Second: Roll Call vote Riggan, Grbelja, Blackwell, Madeam, Morelli, Butewicz and Butch voted yes to approve the split. Chairman Scott abstained from voting.

Chairman Scott stated that even although the Clam Bake could not be held this year, the "Park in The Park" event added \$1,500.00 to the Clam Bake fund. This money was deposited by the Township to place back into the fund. Both groups are very supportive of each other and assist each other.

Deputy Mayor Grbelja clarified that no public Open Space Tax Funds were used to fund the event. The funds came from the money raised at the Clam Bake for Open Space preservation. She added that the Thomas Baird Homestead property was acquired with Open Space funds.

Peplowski:

The preservation has closed. Chairman Scott advised that Harriet Honigfeld has never connected with her.

Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant Budget -Phase II:

Ms. Butch advised that the projected cost for the Park came in around \$600,000--\$650,000.00. She advised that when they went out to bid, the cost was closer to \$800,000-\$900,000.00. Ms. Butch advised that there was some discussion regarding dividing this grant in half and using two years to cycle this and she explained that this

would have pushed back the grant for the Clarksburg Cultural Center parking lot as well as the project for the Open Space Watershed land acquisition. Ms. Butch advised that the Township decided to use the money for the Park in one swoop, holding off on the recreation grants until the Cultural Center parking lot and the watershed land acquisition would be done.

#### DOT Trails Grant:

Ms. Riggan has volunteered to apply for the grant and Mr. Madeam has agreed to assist. Mr. Butch advised that the categories for the Trail grant has expanded to include:

- Design and construction of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation
- Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails and pedestrians, and other nonmotorized transportation users
- Construction of scenic turnouts, overlooks and viewing areas
- Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities both land and water such as buildings, structures and canals
- Community improvement activities, specifically Streets capping and corridor landscaping
- Environmental mitigation to address stormwater management, control, water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff
- Reduce vehicle caused wildlife mortality or to restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats

The group considered the categories. The group discussed the conservation easement off of Burnt Tavern that is on the Township's ROSI for a scenic area for a photo blind or where cars could pull over.

Chairman Scott also asked about the trail off of Perrineville at the Orchards. Ms. Butch stated that is Fairplay Road and there are homes in that location.

The group discussed that investigation is needed.

The Grant Application Due date is **November 24, 2020**

#### Millstone Day:

Millstone Day is postponed this year.

#### Finance:

Ms. Butch discussed the monies that were paid out of the Open Space Trust which included, payment made on the bonds for the purchase of Open Space properties; engineering fees for the Park, architectural costs for the building at the Clarksburg Cultural Center and the engineering work performed at the Thomas Baird Homestead.

#### Legislative Awareness:

Ms. Butch advised that there is some legislation regarding COVID protection for farm workers. The Farm Bureau is supporting the protection of workers but disagreeing with the heavy enforcement mandate and so they are against the legislation as is written. There is legislation concerning the labeling of home baked goods, equine hazard protection under the right to farm, farm worker emergency protection and a farm preservation special events bill all going through at this time.

Update Planning Board and Board of Adjustment:

Ms. Oxley not here this evening so this will be tabled.

Executive Session – There will not be one this evening.

See no further business, Chairman Scott asked for a Motion and a Second to adjourn. Ms. Riggan Made the Motion and Ms. Butch offered a Second and by unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela D'Andrea