

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COUNCIL
OCTOBER 22, 2020
MEETING MINUTES**

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic State of Emergency the Millstone Township Open Space Preservation meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 22, 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:

Chairperson Scott called the Meeting to Order at 7:32 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: (9) Butch, Butewicz, Datello, Grbelja, Madeam, Oxley, Scott, Smith (arrived 7:45 p.m.) and Riggini

Absent: (2) Blackwell and Morelli

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairperson Scott opened the public comment portion of the meeting to the public at 7:35 p.m. Seeing no public comment, she closed that portion of the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: AUGUST 27, 2020

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter dated May 3, 2020 –Residents Request to Maintain Rocky Brook. Ms. Butch spoke with Mr. Abernethy, Township Administrator, the first week of June of the resident's concerns to maintain Rocky Brook. Mr. Abernethy assured Ms. Butch he would get the maintenance of the Rocky Brook trails done by this fall and he will make sure that time is allotted to do the maintenance.

Letter dated May 2, 2020 –Residents Request to Maintain Galloping Hill. Ms. Butch stated the fence has been erected

NEW BUSINESS:

Conservation Easement Hand Out

Chairperson Scott would like the conservation easement hand out to be revisited.

Ms. Butch stated this was done in 2004 and should be revisited. We need to take a look at it and point out what changes should be made.

Ms. Datello agreed and stated we need to educate every one of the preservations of the Township.

Mr. Madeam stated residents need to be aware that they cannot dump in easements, as it is a big issue.

Ms. Butch believes the revisions and/or changes should encourage the positive in what you can do and should do, not what you should not do.

Deputy Mayor Grbelja would like to have this sent to all homeowners with a conservation easement once redone.

Chairperson Scott wants the committee to take a look at the conservation easement hand out and make corrections and send to her and cc: Ms. Tillou, Open Space Secretary. She would like to have everything together by November. She would like Environmental Commission to help and give input once changes are made.

OLD BUSINESS:

Park Guide:

Chairperson Scott stated they have to set up a meeting with Andrew DeFelice, Director of Recreation and go over the park guide with him.

Fall Newsletter:

Chairperson Scott stated there are edits that need to be done and to remove the Rutgers article from page 5 that is a duplicate from the last newsletter.

Ms. Butch wants to replace the Rutgers article with Park in the Park and the preservation of the Peplowski farm.

The committee would like more color and something more eye catching to the "letter from the chair" portion of the newsletter.

Chairperson Scott would like to have the back page to state Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. She would like to remove "throw rocks" and replace with "clap hands loudly" in the coyote article on page 4.

Ms. Butch would like anywhere that states “Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council” to change to “Open Space Preservation Council” due to the change by ordinance in September. She would like the newsletter to be labeled Fall/Winter.

DOT Trails Grant:

Ms. Riggins and Mr. Medeam will be working on this application and submit by the due date of **November 24, 2020**.

Ms. Butch will be sending Ms. Riggins and Mr. Medeam what is important about the property and the education of the trail and they will go from there.

Millstone Park

Ms. Datello will be requesting to the ADHOC Recreation Committee to be able to back up a car to the water to get a boat in the water.

Chairperson Scott stated they are working on the Challenger Playground and the hard court surfacing for pickle and bocce ball.

Ms. Butch stated the baseball fields have been lined out and the storage building will be going up soon.

Municipal Open Space Stewardship

Chairperson Scott is waiting for a call back from the Township for the properties we will be doing stewardships for.

Finance:

Nothing to report at this time.

Fundraising

Chairperson Scott stated there has been no fundraising since September. A deposit of our cost plus \$1,500 was made back in September from the “Park in the Park Movie Night”.

Legislative Awareness

Ms. Butch reported the plastic bag law has been signed into law.

OSFP Inventory, Stewardship & Management

Ms. Butch advised the meeting last night, October 21, 2020, before the Township Committee had a warehouse presentation for a request for rezoning. They did withdraw the request. This was a call out from the residents to preserve properties like that in town. There will be an investigation to revisit these properties for other ways to get these properties preserved.

Update Planning Board and Board of Adjustment:

Nothing to report at this time.

Public Relations, Publications & Education

Ms. Butch advised we can get someone to do a presentation via Zoom regarding “Understanding How Appraisals are Done”. Someone can do that at the next meeting.

At 8:33 PM, a Motion to move to executive session was made by Chairperson Scott with a Second offered by Ms. Butch.

AYES: (9) Butch, Butewicz, Datello, DM/Grbelja, Madeam, Oxley, Scott, Smith, Riggini

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Having no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn was made by Chairperson Scott with a Second offered by DM/Grbelja and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Tillou