

**Millstone Township  
Agricultural Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
May 5, 2008**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

**Roll Call:**

Present: Ms. Butch, Mr. Halka, Ms. Pinhas, Mr. Romano

Absent: Mr. Asprocolas

In attendance: Mayor Grbelja

A motion was made by Ms. Pinhas to approve the April 7, 2008, minutes with a second offered by Mr. Halka and all in favor of approval.

**Old Business**

- **Manure Management Program** – Mr. Romano provided an update on the program noting that Mr. Dancer, who was unable to attend tonight's meeting, has received all necessary approvals and will follow-up with an email to Mr. Halka; Mr. Dancer will provide an advertisement which will be posted on the Ag Council website stating that he can pick up manure or that clean manure can be dropped off at his facility.
- **Correspondence** – Mr. Romano reviewed the letter received from the Superintendent of Schools, Mary Ann Donahue, regarding use of the Elementary School parking lot for a local farm market; Ms. Donahue forwarded a Building Use Form and a Release Form which must be completed and forwarded to the BoE Building and Grounds Department; the Secretary will complete and submit the forms.
- **Open Farm Market**
  - **Survey results:** Survey results were distributed and discussed; as of May 5<sup>th</sup>, 165 responses were received with 99% in favor of a local farm market; Saturday is the most popular day for the market and 9 AM to 1 PM is the most popular time.
  - **Location:** M/Grbelja stated that Deputy Mayor Kinsey will speak to the Recreation Commission about using Wagner Farm Park lot for the market; there will be no usage fee for this site and the market can be located in the lot closest to club house from mid-June to mid-August after which the market will be moved across the street to the open field on Baird Road through mid-October; the Council must apply for an electric drop to be supplied on Saturdays at the open field; portable facilities will also be required at the open field; signs advertising the market will be posted on busy roads such as Route 33; a motion was made by Ms. Pinhas to move forward with the use of Wagner Farm Park for the Open Farm Market and to file the School Building Use Form with the BoE Buildings Grounds Department with a second offered by Mr. Halka and all in favor.
  - **Fees:** Council members discussed whether vendors should be charged a fee, which will be used for site maintenance and clean up, and if resident farmers should be charged the same fee as non-

resident farmers; Council members agreed that there will be no fee charged to vendors for the first four weeks of the market after which a determination will be made regarding the fee for resident and non-resident farmers.

- **Advertisement to Farmers:** advertisement will be discussed after a start date is determined for the market.
- The Council contacted Mr. Asprocolas via cell phone; Mr. Asprocolas agreed that holding the market on Saturdays between 9 AM and 1:00 PM would be the best time and suggested beginning the market on the weekend after July 4<sup>th</sup>; Mr. Asprocolas also suggested starting with 3 or 4 vendors and that each vendor should be responsible for cleaning up after themselves; Mr. Asprocolas will look into farm market contracts and rules and will provide more information at the next Council meeting.

➤ ***OEM Large Animal Action Plan***

- **Large Animal OEM Survey:** Six survey responses have been received to date; the Secretary will post information about the survey on the PEG channel noting that the information is necessary for effective animal protection and will be used for OEM purposes only; the Secretary will change the name of the survey currently posted on the Ag website from the “Large Animal” to the “Farm Animal” survey and the survey will be revised to include poultry information; M/Grbelja will contact Mr. Duane Davison regarding confidentiality issues.
- **OEM Liaison:** Ms. Butch offered to attend the next OEM meeting, scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, but could not commit to attending every meeting and suggested having Ms. Maggie Romano attend as a substitute when necessary; Ms. Romano agreed and Ms. Pinhas also offered to attend meetings as a substitute liaison when available.
- **Horse Park:** Council discussed the potential for using the Horse Park in the event of an emergency and rules and restrictions for entry into the park.
- **Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue Training:** The Secretary will contact the USET training organizers regarding holding a training session in Millstone and will inquire about the availability of training material on video.

➤ ***Municipal Farm Lease***

- Ms. Butch provided information about the County farm lease program and will put together a package containing farm lease suggestions for the Township Committee.

➤ ***Municipal Farmland Preservation Plan Open Public***

- The Open Public Meeting was held on April 9<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Butch, Ms. Pinhas and Mr. Romano attended the meeting as representatives of the Ag Council; Council members acknowledged Ms. Butch’s contributions to the Farmland Preservation Plan and thanked her for all the effort and time spent on preparation of the Plan.

➤ ***OSFP Clambake Fundraiser***

- The Clambake will be held on Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Butch requested that the Secretary contact Rich and Jackie Tomer regarding volunteering at the fundraiser.

### **New Business**

- **Newsletter:** The next newsletter is scheduled to be distributed with the July Tax mailing; potential articles include
  - Latest preservation
  - Farm Market
  - Clambake
  - Save The Horse Committee
- **The NJ Horse Council meeting**
  - Ms. Maggie Romano explained that the meeting will be held on Thursday, June 26, at the Community Center at 6:00 PM; Mr. David Kimmel of the SADC will moderate a panel discussion on “Farmer-to-Farmer Advice for Avoiding Conflicts with Neighbors and Towns”; Mr. Cory Wingerter will be one of the panelists at the meeting.
- **Monmouth County Save The Horse Committee**
  - M/Grbelja provided information from the April 27<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting and announced that the Committee will be at Monmouth Racetrack on Opening Day.
- **Memorial Day Parade**
  - Mr. Romano asked members if there is interest in participating in the parade and suggested using a float with a banner advertising the Council’s website and distributing fliers for the Clambake; Mr. Romano will send out an email to the OSFP Council soliciting interest in parade participation.

At 8:39 PM a motion was made by Ms. Pinhas with a second offered by Mr. Halka and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher