

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2009

Mr. Romano called the meeting to order at 7:42 PM.

Mr. Romano read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

Present: (5) Asprocolas, Halka, Peck, Pinhas, Romano

Absent: (1) Butch

A motion was made by Ms. Pinhas to approve the March 23, 2009, minutes with a second offered by Mr. Halka and all in favor.

Correspondence

- The Open Space and Farmland Preservation and Ag Councils' Spring Newsletter was distributed for Council member review

Old Business

➤ Manure Management

- Mr. Romano spoke with the attorneys who informed him that the Council cannot advertise manure vendors in a regular Township mailing, e-mail distribution, on the website or on the PEG channel
- The attorneys suggested preparing a flyer or brochure and mailing it directly to the Ag Council's mailing list of farmers
- The public will have to contact the vendors directly
- The flyer will highlight changes in criteria and will provide the Ag Council's website address, where the entire 75 page rule document can be viewed
- Mr. Romano will prepare the flyer and distribute via email to Council members for review and feedback
- Once the flyer is finalized, the Secretary will send out to the Ag Council's mailing list

➤ Farm Market

- The Farm Market vendor meeting was held on March 23 with the majority of vendors from last year in attendance
- Two 4' x 8' plywood signs will be purchased; one will be placed on Route 33 and Woodville Road the day of the market and will need to be taken down when the market closes each Saturday
- Mr. Asprocolas asked if one of the signs could be left at the entrance to Wagner Farm Park and another at the corner of Millstone and Perrineville Roads to advertise the market throughout the week
- Two 3' x 8' banners may be purchased to be placed on the fence at Wagner Farm Park and at the municipal building on Stage Coach Road
- The vendor fee is set at \$15.00/week

- Advertisements need to be ready for publishing in the Examiner and Asbury Park Press by the middle of May
 - The backpack flyer will be distributed to the schools by the middle of May
 - The market will be advertised on the State Department of Ag website
 - Opening day will be May 30th
 - The Township Committee will be invited to attend opening day
 - Mr. Romano asked Council members for suggestions for the opening day celebration
- **Large Animal OEM Plan**
- Ms. Butch and Ms. Romano have been serving on the Large Animal OEM Plan sub-committee
 - Ms. Romano provided an update to the committee
 - Mr. Manny Blanco has joined the sub-committee and along with Ms. Butch and Ms. Romano has been attending the regular OEM meetings
 - There will be a large animal emergency response convention in Atlantic City in May
 - Ms. Romano will be attending the disaster animal response seminar at the end of April at Rick's Saddle Shop
 - A list of supplies needed for large and small animals is being compiled for funding purposes
 - A representative from the American Red Cross is scheduled to attend the next OEM meeting to discuss sheltering animals
 - Deadlines for the plan will be pushed out due to the amount of work and the limited number of people involved in preparing the plan
 - Information has been obtained for farmland assessed properties within the Township, but not for all the smaller farms that are not farmland assessed

New Business

- **Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council's 3rd Annual Clambake Fundraiser**
- The Ag Council partners with the Open Space Council to cook and serve food
 - Sunday, June 7th
 - 2 Seatings: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm and 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm
 - Ticket prices are \$25.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children; Children's' tickets do not include lobster
 - Additional volunteers are needed to help at the event
 - Donations of any amount will be accepted

- **New Items to be Addressed by Ag Council:** Mr. Romano asked Council members to consider agricultural issues that have not been addressed by the Council; issues discussed include:
- Distribution of information regarding the appropriate time to fertilize, planting seasons and an "Ask the Expert" column on the website
 - Film a scene at the Farmers' Market to play on the PEG channel
 - Placing a slide show of various farms in the Township on both the PEG channel and the website
 - Potential seminars including
 - Pesticide training, which is provided free of charge by the DEP
 - A seminar to explain changes in laws regarding pesticide application
 - An animal waste management seminar
 - Ideas for the Farm Market opening day include inviting the Fire Department, the County's wellness van, face painting and a clown for children a free tomato plant for children
 - Green bags will be ordered to give away on opening day, which will be included in the advertising

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Pinhas with a second offered by Mr. Halka to adjourn the meeting and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher