

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2010

Mr. Halka called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

Present: (5) Asprocolas, Butch, Dancer, Halka, Peck

Absent: (1) Pinhas

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Asprocolas with a second offered by Ms. Butch to approve the March 1, 2010. Roll call vote:

Ayes (4) Asprocolas, Butch, Dancer, Halka

Nays (0)

Correspondence

- **Monmouth County Planning Board Panhandle Region Plan (PRP) Draft:** Ms. Butch provided an update on the PRP; the last meeting had been an open meeting for public comment on the plan; comments have been incorporated in the draft; the next meeting, which is not an open public meeting, will be held this month for the appointed Municipal Action Committee to review and approve the draft; if approved, the PRP will be submitted to the State to be a Scenic Byway; if approved at the State level, the plan will move to Phase II, which will include ways to implement the plan.

Old Business

- **Farm Market:** Resolution 10-74 was adopted at the March 17th Township Committee meeting permitting the farm market to operate at the parking lot of the municipal building on Stage Coach Road.
- **Former Lee Property Farm Lease:** no discussion.
- **Large Animal OEM Plan:** no discussion.
- **Animal Waste Management Plan (AWMP):** no discussion.

New Business

- **Non-life Hazard Fire Inspection for S-1 and S-2 Buildings:** Karen Kritz, of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, provided Ms. Butch with the following information:
 - "Under the authority of the Uniform Fire Safety Act (PL 1983, c. 383) the provisions of the code shall apply to **all** new and existing buildings. All owners shall be responsible for the safe and proper maintenance of the premises at all times. All buildings shall be classified as a "life hazard use"

except those premises that are incidental or auxiliary to the agricultural use of a farm property shall not be classified as life hazard uses (NJAC 5:70-2.4(b)). Therefore, farm buildings are not subject to registration under the hazard use classification."

- According to Ms. Kritz, Millstone is one of only two towns that she is aware of that has passed a non-life hazard fire inspection requirement that does not exempt agriculture. According to the ordinance, all agricultural businesses that have farm labor buildings or buildings accessed by the public are required to have this inspection and pay the annual inspection fee; Ms. Kritz's recommendation is to have farm buildings exempted from this fee because the State never intended for the inspection fee to be placed on agriculture and Millstone is supposed to be a farm-friendly community; Ms. Butch will contact Committeeman Kuczinski, the Fire Department Liaison, regarding the Ag Council's recommendation to follow the State's law.
 - The Ag Council's recommendation will be to exempt agricultural buildings from the fee however, agricultural buildings will not be exempt from the standards set forth in the fire safety code.
- **Use & Permits for Propane Gas on Agricultural Businesses:** Ms. Butch and Mr. Asprocolas attended the March County Ag Board meeting during which a Millstone farmer explained that the Fire Department had charged him \$497.00 for a Type 4 permit; Ms. Kritz forwarded Ms. Butch information from Millstone's Code Book which states: "Type 4 permits shall not be required when the storage or activity is incidental or auxiliary to the agricultural use of a farm property." Ms. Butch suggested that either Ms. Kritz or the Township contact the Fire Department regarding rescinding the fee that this farmer was charged.
 - **Bathroom Facility on Farms:** Ms. Kritz sent a memo to building inspector Mickey Martin regarding bathroom facilities in new farm structures; bathroom facilities are not required under farm labor standards when an existing facility is within a reasonable travel distance of less than one quarter mile. Also, the State requires a farm building permit fee schedule separate, and lower, than the fee schedule for other permits.
 - **Potential Ag Council Seminar:** Ms. Kritz offered to present a seminar on any topic that she is knowledgeable about.
 - **4th Annual Clambake Fundraiser** will be held on Sunday, June 6th, at Wagner Farm Park; Anyone interested in volunteering or purchasing tickets should contact Council Secretary, Lori Maher, at L-Maher@millstone.nj.us or 732-446-4249 x 1103. Council members are also asked to help solicit business sponsors for the event.

Next Meeting

- The next Ag Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 3, 2010.

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Butch with a second offered by Mr. Asprocolas to adjourn the meeting and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher