

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2010

Mr. Halka called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm.

Roll Call

Present: (5) Butch, Dancer (arrived 7:53 pm), Halka, Peck, Pinhas

Absent: (1) Asprocolas

At 7:39 pm a motion was made by Ms. Butch with a second offered by Ms. Pinhas, and by unanimous vote, the Council moved to executive session.

At 8:12 pm the Council returned to open session.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Butch with a second offered by Ms. Pinhas to approve the May 3, 2010 meeting minutes. Roll Call vote:

Ayes (5) Butch, Pinhas, Dancer, Halka, Peck

Nays (0)

A motion was made by Ms. Butch with a second offered by Ms. Pinhas to approve the June 7, 2010 meeting minutes. Roll Call vote:

Ayes (4) Butch, Pinhas, Dancer, Peck

Nays (0)

Correspondence: There was no correspondence to discuss.

Old Business

- **Community Farm Market:** Council members discussed possibly closing the market on Saturday, July 10, because only 2 vendors will be in attendance. Council members agreed that the market should not close because the momentum that has built since the beginning of the season will be lost. A suggested alternative to closing the market is to have the vendors partner with each other. The vendors in attendance could bring a greater supply of produce to cover the gap left by the absent vendor. The Secretary will contact the vendors to discuss arrangements for keeping the market open on July 10th.
- **Large Animal OEM Plan:** Nothing new to discuss.
- **Non-life Hazard Fire Inspection for S-1 and S-2 Buildings:** Nothing new to discuss.
- **Use & Permits for Propane Gas on Agricultural Businesses:** Discussion tabled due to Mr. Asprocolas's absence.

- **Compliance with Millstone Property Maintenance Code:** The second reading of the ordinance is on the agenda for the July 7th TC meeting; Ms. Butch explained that the ordinance has been revised to include requested language; farmers that have labor housing will not be required to obtain a CO each time there is a change in occupancy; a new CO will only be required if there is a change in ownership of the property.
- **4th Annual Clambake Fundraiser**
 - The fundraiser was successful and brought in over \$4,000.
 - The weather held up despite the tornado warning.
 - Attendees were seated inside the Wagner Farm Park facility, which is air-conditioned and provided shelter from the wind.
 - The only negative comments received were regarding the restriction of alcohol beverages.
- **Millstone Day** is scheduled for Sunday, September 19th, from 12 noon to 5:00 pm, at Frogbridge Day Camp.
 - Mr. Dancer is looking into getting additional tractors for the display.
 - The Open Space Council suggested having a roped-off area for ride-on tractor toys for small children.
 - Mr. Halka will contact Frogbridge regarding placement of the tractors, which will need to be positioned so that they will have good visibility without causing damage to the sprinkler system.
 - The Secretary will send out a schedule for volunteers to sign up.
- **Ordinance 10-18, Riparian Zone Ordinance:** Ms. Butch provided a list of exception recommendations compiled with the input from the Ag Council, the Open Space Council, the Environmental Commission and the Fire Department. The list has been provided to Mr. Kuczinski, who will champion the recommendations at the July 7th TC meeting. The list has also been provided to attorney, Duane Davison, who recommended the introduction of a new amended version of the ordinance at the July 7th TC meeting. The new ordinance will need to be reviewed for appropriate wording of exceptions.
- **Ag Council Sponsored Seminar**
 - Ms. Butch has booked Karen Kritz for Monday, January 10, 2011.
 - A winter/off-season date was selected to accommodate farmers.
 - The topic will be related to the operation of farm vehicles.
 - The Secretary will request the use of the court room for the seminar.
 - Mr. Halka informed the Council that he will not be present on Jan 10.
 - The seminar will be advertised in the bulletin board section of local newspapers, on the Ag Council website and through flyers; Ms. Butch suggested that Mr. Dancer make an announcement about the seminar at the County Ag Board meeting. Ms. Pinhas suggested notifying the State Police.

- Ms. Butch also suggested contacting Jane Meggitt regarding writing an article on the seminar for the Examiner.
- **August, September & October Meeting Date Changes:** Ms. Butch made a motion, with a second offered by Mr. Halka and all in favor, to change the meeting dates for the August, September and October meetings to the first Tuesday of the month to accommodate Council members who belong to the Hightstown Co-op, which meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through October. The new meeting dates are as follows:
 - Tuesday, August 3, 2010
 - Tuesday, September 7, 2010
 - Tuesday, October 5, 2010
- **Farmland Assessment Forms due August 1st:** A notice has been posted on the Township website.

New Business

- **Low Hanging Wires:** Ms. Pinhas contacted the NJ Public Utilities and the wires on Baird Road have been tied together; there are mark-outs on Millstone Road for installation of a new pole; a pole has been installed on Trenton-Lakewood Road but only some of the wires have been moved. Ms. Pinhas informed Council members once low-hanging wires are reported to Verizon, they have 24 hours to respond. If Verizon doesn't fix the wires, NJ Public Utilities should be contacted. If no action is taken by Verizon and NJ Public Utilities, anyone who accidentally brings down the wires cannot be held responsible for damages.
- **Legislation for Casinos at the Meadowlands:** Ms. Butch presented an article that appeared in the Two River Times (Red Bank) regarding legislation sponsored by Senator Beck. The legislation would create casinos at the Meadowlands with varying percentages of generated revenue to go towards infrastructure improvements at Atlantic City, enhanced purses for winning horses at the Meadowlands and Monmouth Park racetracks, funding for breeding and the remaining for State institutions and education. The legislation would require a referendum question on the November ballot.

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Pinhas with a second offered by Ms. Butch to adjourn the meeting and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher