

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2011

Mr. Peck called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

Present: (5) Butch, Dancer, Halka, Peck, Pinhas (arrived 7:39 pm)

Absent: (1) Asprocolas

Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Ms. Halka with a Second offered by Ms. Butch to approve the July 12, 2011, minutes.

Ayes: (3) Halka, Butch, Peck

Nay: (0)

Correspondence

- **Motor Vehicle Regulations for Agriculture:** There is a 60 day comment period, which began August 1, for the rule change on the Sunday and holiday travel restriction on oversized farm equipment and vehicles. The Secretary distributed a News Bulletin with information on the rule change and comment period to the Ag email list. Since phone, fax or email contact information was not provided by the Motor Vehicle Commission, it appears that comments must be made in writing.

Old Business

- **Large Animal OEM Plan**
 - A plan has not been formalized. The Horse Park of New Jersey is a shelter for large animals but it has open buildings with portable stalls, which do not provide the best shelter. Dr. Palmer has offered his facility as a shelter for large animals during emergencies. The Township would contact Dr. Palmer and Ms. Butch knows how the plan would work but it is not documented. Ms. Butch sheltered horses that were evacuated from Staten Island due to flooding from Hurricane Irene. Other area farms could have had animals that needed to be moved due to flooding. The hurricane showed that we are not well prepared and a better plan is needed. Better communication is also needed especially in the case of a power outage.
 - Shelly's School for Dogs will assist with small animals but the facility is not built yet. The Red Cross used to tell people not to bring pets to shelters. After Hurricane Katrina, when many people would not leave their pets behind, the Red Cross changed their policy on sheltering pets.

- Deputy Mayor Kuczinski is the OEM Coordinator. The OEM group met on Saturday morning, August 27th. There was a plan but it did not need to be implemented as the County had already opened shelters.
- **Low-hanging wires and tree branches:** Jonathan Pinhas was in attendance and explained that JCP&L has been pruning trees. JCP&L prunes from the wires upward, not the low hanging branches. Mr. Pinhas explained that clearance above the roadway should be 15 feet and clearance above driveways should be 14 feet.
- **Farm Leases**
 - Lichtman: There will be a new lease in the future for approximately 16 acres. The lease must be approved by the State. The property is owned by the State and managed by the Township.
 - Millstone Park: The thirty foot buffer was discussed. The Recreation Planning Committee will be taking a tour of the property and will need to drive on the buffer area. The lessee is required to mow the buffer area and will be contacted by the Township if the area is not mowed as required under the terms of the lease.
- **Sunday and holiday travel restriction:** Discussed under correspondence.
- **Millstone Day** will be held on Sunday, September 18th, at Frogbridge Day Camp. There will be an information table with the new "My Plate" nutrition information. Ms. Butch suggested having a giant pumpkin "guess my weight" contest.

New Business

- Council members discussed dams and flooding issues resulting from Hurricane Irene. The Natural Resource Conservation Service or FEMA may have money available to replace irrigation dams destroyed during the hurricane.
- Ms. Butch suggested that the Council review soil maps for potential farm preservation properties during executive session of the October meeting.
- Council members discussed an item that appeared in the September 2nd NJFB newsletter regarding federal child labor regulations. Regulation changes may only affect paid labor, not family members working on farms.

Having no further business to discuss, a Motion was made by Ms. Pinhas with a Second offered by Mr. Dancer to adjourn the meeting and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher
Council Secretary