

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2011

Mr. Asprocolas called the meeting to order at 7:43 pm.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

Present: (4) Asprocolas, Butch, Halka, Peck

Absent: (2) Dancer, Pinhas

Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Ms. Butch with a Second offered by Mr. Peck to approve the September 6, 2011, minutes.

Ayes: (3) Butch, Peck, Halka

Nay: (0)

Correspondence: None.

Old Business

- **Large Animal OEM Plan:** Ms. Butch discussed an email she received from the County regarding the need for large animal shelters during emergencies. The need for animal shelters and the recent hurricane will be discussed at the October OEM meeting.
- **Low-hanging wires and tree branches:** Mr. Asprocolas expressed concerns about low hanging branches on Township roads which have become worse after the hurricane. Branches hanging in roadways are now affecting all types of trucks, not just farm equipment. Council members discussed responsibility for trees planted in road right-of-ways as well as trees planted in developments as mandated by the Township. Ms. Butch suggested contacting the Shade Tree Commission to see if they have a plan regarding tree maintenance. Other suggestions include contacting the Township Attorney for a legal opinion on responsibility for tree maintenance and partnering with another municipality that has a bucket truck to prune trees.
- **Farm Leases:** A proposal has been written for the Lichtman farm lease which must to be approved by the State.
- **Motor Vehicle Regulations for Agriculture:**
 - The public comment period for oversized vehicles ended on September 30th. The rule change is expected to pass and become permanent at the next MVC Board meeting.

- The 16 year-old farmer license issue requiring accompaniment hasn't been resolved. Mr. Asprocolas will speak with Ed Wengryn of the Farm Bureau regarding status of the bill to remove restrictions.

New Business

- Ms. Butch provided information on local horse farms that received bills from the State for back sales tax for boarding horses.

At 8:00 pm, a Motion was made to move to executive session by Ms. Butch with a Second offered by Mr. Peck. At 8:44 pm, the Council returned to open session. Having no further business to discuss, a Motion was made by Mr. Peck with a Second offered by Ms. Halka to adjourn the meeting and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher
Council Secretary