

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2012

Mr. Asprocolas called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

Present: (3) Asprocolas, Butch, Pinhas

Absent: (3) Dancer, Halka, Peck

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the September 4th minutes was tabled.

Public Comment: Dr. Palmer of the NJ Equine Clinic was in attendance. Comments were held for the OEM discussion under Old Business.

Correspondence

- Letter to the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council re: Allen Barn. The OSFP Council, after considerable discussion, agreed to provide funding assistance for dismantling the Allen Barn.
- Letter to the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture re: Allen Barn. The MCBoA donated \$500 towards the dismantling of the Allen Barn. With an additional donation of \$500 from Asprocolas Acres, the project is now fully funded.

Old Business

- **OEM Issues:** Dr. Palmer was in attendance to discuss issues and possible solutions and improvements to emergency situation responses, such as Hurricane Sandy and the resulting prolonged power outage. Ms. Butch prefaced the conversation with the following comments:
 - A major issue is to have the Township prioritized with JCP&L as 100% of residents are on private well and septic.
 - Certain buildings and businesses need to be prioritized namely the schools, the New Jersey Equine Center (which is a hospital), the pharmacy, gas stations, the Community Center, Municipal Buildings, the DPW garage, the OEM office and buildings that are designated as shelters.
 - Roads need to be cleared expeditiously so that the power company can come through to restore power.
 - Communication was a problem. Residents didn't know where to go to obtain information; the Township phone system was down and even analog phones were not working due to downed Verizon lines. Hand-written signs posted at strategic locations were helpful.

Dr. Palmer offered the following suggestions regarding emergency response:

- Establish and provide a prioritization list to the power company for businesses and buildings such as the schools, municipal buildings, OEM office, shelters, gas stations, the pharmacy and the Equine Center, which is a hospital.
- Form a short-term/finite task force to address and fix deficiencies in the communication system during emergency situations. A communication plan that does not include the internet or other electronic devices is needed. Compile a printed database of all horses in the Township; a detailed listing of the number of horses would not be necessary, only the names of farms with emergency phone contact information (e.g. cell phone numbers). Calls could be made to the various farms to determine needs such as water, feed, if flooding is an issue, etc.
- OEM needs to create a power grid of the Township and needs to know where power outages exist so that resources can be focused in the areas where they are needed.

Ms. Butch will bring these suggestions to the next OEM meeting.

- **Farm Leases:** The current three year farm lease at Millstone Park expires 7/31/13. Bid packages for the next lease will be prepared after the first of the year.
- **Horse Keeping Businesses and New Jersey Sales and Use Tax:** Ms. Butch brought this issue to legislators and the Farm Bureau and has not heard anything to date.
- **Agriculture Museum:** The Friends of Millstone Township Historic Registered Properties, a 501(c)(3) organization, requested and was awarded numerous items from the New Jersey Museum of Agriculture which closed due to budgetary constraints. The items will be displayed at the Baird Homestead. All items, with the exception of the plow and the windmill, have been moved.
- **Community Map Fundraiser:** This is a fundraiser for the Friends group. \$11,750 has been raised to date and ads are still coming in. Funds will go towards the start-up of the Baird Homestead. \$4,000 of the funds raised will be set aside for a matching grant that has been submitted to repair a portion of the Baird House roof.
- **Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant:** The grant was submitted and has been deemed complete. Grant awards will be announced in December.

New Business

- **Meeting Schedule for 2013:** A tentative list of 2013 meeting dates was distributed for review.
- **Terms Expiring 12/31/12:** Tom Dancer, Randy Peck, Shirley Pinhas and Kate Halka.
- **Allen Barn:** Ms. Butch provided information about the Allen Barn and Carriage House. The cost to dismantle the barn and carriage house was negotiated down

through the use of volunteer labor. The volunteers have completed the first phase of the project and the next step is for the NJ Barn Company to catalogue the timbers and dismantle the structures. Volunteers will be needed to coordinate moving and storing the timbers until the barn and carriage house will be re-erected.

Having no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Pinhas with a Second offered by Ms. Butch and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher, Council Secretary