

# Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2012

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

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

## Roll Call

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

Absent: (1) Halka\*

\*Ms. Halka's absence is due to her attendance at the annual Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show in Maryland.

## Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Mr. Peck with a Second offered by Ms. Pinhas to approve the December 5, 2011, minutes.

Ayes: (3) Peck, Pinhas, Asprocolas

Nay: (0)

## Reorganization

### ➤ Appointments

- Resolution No. 12-19 appoints Pat Butch to seat number one and George Asprocolas to seat number five. Both appointments are for two year terms commencing 1/1/12 and ending 12/31/13.
- Resolution No. 12-20 appoints Tom Dancer as the Millstone Township representative to the Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board for 2012.

### ➤ Election of Officers

- Ms. Butch nominated Mr. Asprocolas for Chairperson with a Second offer by Ms. Pinhas. Mr. Asprocolas accepted the nomination. Roll call vote:  
Ayes (5) Butch, Pinhas, Asprocolas, Dancer, Peck  
Nays (0)  
Abstain (0)
- Ms. Butch nominated Mr. Peck for Vice Chairperson with a Second offer by Ms. Pinhas. Mr. Peck accepted the nomination. Roll call vote:  
Ayes (5) Butch, Pinhas, Asprocolas, Dancer, Peck  
Nays (0)  
Abstain (0)

### ➤ Adoption of Meeting Schedule for 2012

- Ms. Butch made a Motion to adopt the following schedule of meetings for 2012 and the first meeting of 2013 with a Second offered by Mr. Dancer. Roll call vote:

Ayes (5) Butch, Dancer, Asprocolas, Peck, Pinhas  
Nays (0)  
Abstain (0)

January 9, 2012*	August 7, 2012**
February 6, 2012	September 4, 2012**
March 5, 2012	October 2, 2012**
April 2, 2012	November 5, 2012
May 7, 2012	December 3, 2012
June 4, 2012	January 7, 2013*
July 3, 2012**	

\* Meeting on the second Monday of the month to accommodate for the Township Committee reorganization meeting.

\*\* The July through October meetings occur on Tuesdays.

➤ **Designation of Official Newspapers**

- Ms. Pinhas made a Motion to designate the Asbury Park Press and the Messenger Press as the Council's official newspapers with a Second offered by Mr. Dancer and all in favor.

Ayes (5) Butch, Pinhas, Asprocolas, Dancer, Peck  
Nays (0)  
Abstain (0)

**Correspondence:** None.

**Old Business**

- **Large Animal OEM Plan:** OEM Coordinator, Mr. Kuczinski, informed Ms. Butch that the County has a plan. Ms. Butch asked Mr. Kuczinski to obtain the information from the County so that it can be used as a starting point for the municipal plan.
- **Low-hanging wires and tree branches:** Mr. Asprocolas explained that the Township insisted on having street trees planted when developments were built however, there is no maintenance plan for the trees which causes a problem for delivery and box trucks as well as farm equipment and fire department vehicles. Trucks are driven down the center of the road to avoid low hanging branches, which is a safety hazard. The Secretary will write a memo to the Township Administrator identifying the problem and asking if there is anything the Township can do to remedy the problem.
- **Farm Leases:** The lease for the two fields on Perrineville Road expired on 12/31/11. Ms. Butch confirmed that the Homs have planted a crop on one of the fields. The Municipal Clerk wrote a letter to Mr. Restine explaining that the lease has expired and is awaiting a response. The new lease will have term dates that coincide with the lease dates for the Lee Farm and the fields will sit for the six month interim period. The Secretary will bring a copy of the new lease to

the February Ag Council meeting. Suggestions for the new lease include eliminating the performance bond, permitting irrigation and reducing the buffer from 30 feet to 15 feet. Ms. Butch will discuss the width of the buffer with the Township Engineer.

- **Motor Vehicle Regulations for Agriculture:** The junior license is still an issue.
- **Horse Keeping Businesses and New Jersey Sales and Use Tax:** Ms. Butch doesn't have anything new to report but will contact Gaitway and Showplace Farms regarding status of back sales tax charges. Ms. Butch explained that the rules are vague and there is no formula to calculate sales tax. These businesses provide many different services, not just stall services.
- **Erosion resulting from farming practices and preventive measures:** Ms. Butch requested a generic list from the NCRS of farming practices that could prevent erosion. Mr. Kaufman provided a variety of brochures rather than a list of practices. Mr. Asprocolas noted that Mr. Nurko has done everything the Township has asked him to do. The Monmouth County Mosquito Commission obtained an emergency permit and is currently cleaning out the ditch at the site.
- **Council Accomplishments for 2011:** Council members reviewed the list of accomplishments. The Secretary will email the list to the Township Committee.

#### **New Business**

- **Rutgers Board of Managers News:** Ms. Butch explained that she missed the December Ag Council meeting due to a conflict with the December Rutgers Board of Managers meeting and provided information from the meeting. Monmouth County Agriculture Agent, Richard Obal, retired and is not being replaced. Dr. Katz, of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Program, will be attending the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture meeting on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The County BoA formed a subcommittee and will meet on January 20<sup>th</sup> to prepare a presentation for Dr. Katz to address farmers' needs and how the farming community will deal with fewer agents in the field. The Secretary will send out information regarding the time and place for the February 21<sup>st</sup> Board of Agriculture meeting when information becomes available.
- **2012 New Jersey State Agriculture Convention:** The convention will be held January 17 - 19 in Atlantic City.

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 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher  
Council Secretary