

# Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2012

Mr. Asprocolas called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

## Roll Call

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

Absent: (1) Pinhas

## Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Ms. Butch with a Second offered by Ms. Halka to approve the May 7, 2012, minutes.

Ayes: (3) Butch, Halka, Asprocolas

Nays: (0)

**Correspondence:** There has been no correspondence since last month's meeting.

## Old Business

- **Large Animal OEM Plan:** Nothing new to report.
- **Low-hanging wires and tree branches:** Correspondence was received last month from the Township Administrator regarding establishing a budget for a tree trimming program. This item will be removed from the agenda.
- **Farm Leases**
  - The Perrineville Road farm lease was awarded in May to Robert Forman. Two bids were received but one was rejected because mandatory required items were not submitted with the proposal sheet.
  - The SADC is holding meetings to get farmer input on farm leases. The SADC is trying to encourage farming and would like to connect farmers with land owners who are interested in leasing their land. More information is available on the SADC website.
- **Horse Keeping Businesses and New Jersey Sales and Use Tax:** Nothing new to report. The Farm Bureau is handling this issue.
- **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Clambake Fundraiser:** The fundraiser brought in approximately \$9,100 which is about \$1,250 over last year. Mr. Asprocolas donated all the produce including lemons, watermelons, strawberries and sweet corn. Mr. Asprocolas also provided the grill for barbecuing. Several FFA students volunteered at the event, helping with set up, serving food and clean up at the end of the day.
- **Agriculture Museum:** Ms. Butch explained that the NJ Ag Museum has awarded the *Friends* group (*Friends of Millstone Township Historic Registered Properties*) a number of items in addition to the original list of requested items. Ms. Butch reviewed the list and Council members discussed how to load and transport fragile, large and heavy items. Packing material such as towels and quilts will be needed and

members of the *Friends* group will begin packing and moving items on Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.

- **Community Map Fundraiser:** Ms. Butch provided an update on the community map that the *Friends* group is updating as a fundraiser. Ms. Butch has contacted a number of potential advertisers with the first ad purchased by Harter Equipment. The 2007 community map is completely outdated and going forward the map will be updated every three years. The map will include a street index and information about schools, parks and houses of worship; 10,000 copies will be printed and distributed to residents. Money raised from the sale of ads, less expenses, will go to the *Friends* group for development and expenses associated with the Thomas Baird Homestead and Resource Center and set up of the Ag Museum.

### **New Business**

- **Allen House Barn:** The *Friends* group is getting prices to move the Allen House barn. The New Jersey Barn Company toured the barn and confirmed that it is worth saving. One price will be obtained to take the barn apart and store it at Millstone Park and another price will be obtained to re-assemble the barn at the Baird Homestead. The barn will be an extension to the Ag Museum.
- **Ag Council Participation in the Annual Clambake Fundraiser:** The Ag Council has participated in the Clambake fundraiser each year for the past six years. Approximately \$42,000 has been raised from the fundraiser over the past 6 years but, to date, none of the funds have been spent. The funds were raised for land preservation and currently sit in the Open Space Trust account which was established for open space acquisitions and farmland and historic preservation. Council members discussed possibly using some of the clambake income to move the historic Allen House barn and for expenses associated with setting up the Ag Museum. Council members agreed to write a letter to the Open Space Council requesting using a portion of the clambake funds for historic preservation of the barn and setting up the Ag Museum. A letter will be prepared for review at the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Ag Council meeting. With the Ag Council's approval, the letter will then be sent to the Open Space Council for discussion at the next Open Space meeting.

### **Upcoming Events**

- **Millstone Day:** The Secretary will check with the Recreation Department regarding the date for Millstone Day. Ms. Butch suggested bringing items from the Ag Museum to Millstone Day to advertise the Baird Homestead open house and corn maze.

Having no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Dancer with a Second offered by Mr. Peck and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher, Council Secretary