

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2014

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

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

Present: (3) Butch, Dancer, Peck

Absent: (3) Asprocolas, Pinhas, Posten

In Attendance: Committeewoman Grbelja, Agricultural Advisory Council Liaison

Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Ms. Butch with a Second offered by Mr. Peck to approve the July 7, 2014, minutes with corrections as read by Ms. Butch.

AYES: (2) Butch, Peck

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Public Comment: No public in attendance.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence presented at the meeting.

Old Business

- **Large Animal OEM Plan:** Nothing new to report.
- **Farm Leases:** Nothing new to report.
- **Horse Keeping Businesses and New Jersey Sales and Use Tax:** Assemblyman Dancer introduced legislation to clarify that stable stall rentals are exempt from sales tax. Committeewoman Grbelja explained that New Jersey is the only state that taxes stable stall rentals.
- **Baird Homestead Project:** Ag Council members involved in the Fall Harvest Festival have been working directly with the Friends group planning committee. Council members discussed the possibility of holding a seasonal farm market at the Baird Homestead property. Hosting a farm machinery auction was also discussed as a potential fundraiser for the project.
- **Farmland Preservation Process:** There is enough funding in place to preserve one more farm of approximately 40 acres. If a farm is not identified for preservation, the funding will be forfeited.
- **NJ Agricultural Experiment Station Board of Managers Nomination Process:** Ms. Butch provided information about proposed nomination process changes and explained that after the listening session, the administration has backed down on changing the process. Ms. Butch discussed term limits and meeting attendance at both the county and state level and will be attending a Board of Managers meeting tomorrow, September 9th. An update will be provided at the next Ag Council meeting.
- **Agricultural Tourism Activities and Events (S-837 and A-1272):** The legislation regarding special events on farms has been signed.

- **Newsletter:** The newsletter is shared between the Open Space Council and the Ag Council. The next issue will be distributed prior to Election Day and will include an article about the open space ballot question. The Ag Council has space and is welcome to contribute information for the publication.
- **Fall Harvest Festival:** The event will be held, rain or shine, on October 25th at the Baird Homestead property. In the case of inclement weather, the school system has approved use of the Middle School for the event. The planning committee sent a letter to the Township Committee requesting use of Wagner Farm Park and the 40-acre Township open space property across the street from the park however, a response was never received. The Recreation Department had responded to a request to use the Wagner Farm Park facility stating that a specific date could not be confirmed due to Pop Warner scheduling. Harvest Fest activities include a pig roast, pies which will be donated for the event, face painting and pumpkin decorating. Committeewoman Grbelja will look into insurance coverage requirements if the school facility is used for the event.

Events

- **Millstone Day** will be held on Sunday, September 21st, at Frogbridge Day Camp. The Ag Council will have an information table in a horse shoe formation with the Open Space Council, the Historic Commission, the Trailblazers and the Friends group and will be situated next to the HAMT organization. Mr. Peck will contact Mr. Asprocolas regarding providing apples to be given away at Millstone Day. Mr. Dancer offered to provide hay bales for the display and sugar pumpkins. Ms. Butch will bring fall decorations and the Secretary will bring the display board with pictures of preserved farms.

New Business: No new business was discussed.

At 8:19 PM a Motion to move to executive session was made by Ms. Butch with a Second offered by Mr. Dancer. At 8:44 PM, the Council returned to open session and having no further business to discuss, a Motion was made by Mr. Dancer with a Second offered by Ms. Butch to adjourn and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorraine Maher
Council Secretary