

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 28, 2008**

At 8:17 PM, Chairwoman Butch called the meeting to order noting that the meeting started later than usual due to the Farm Conservation Plan Seminar that began at 7:00 PM and concluded at 8:00 PM.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

Roll Call

Present: Mr. Blanco, Ms. Butch, Mr. Denardo, Mr. Kuczinski, Ms. Morelli, Mr. Romano, Ms. Schloss, Mr. Wingerter

Absent: Mr. Alves, Ms. Siedman, Mr. Mullarkey

Public Comment

The public comment portion of the meeting was opened at 8:19 PM and with no comments from the public, was closed at 8:19 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Romano made a motion to approve the January minutes. A second was offered by Mr. Wingerter. Roll call vote - AYES: (8) Mr. Romano, Mr. Wingerter, Mr. Blanco, Ms. Butch, Mr. Denardo, Mr. Kuczinski, Ms. Morelli, Ms. Schloss; NAYS: (0)

Correspondence

Chairwoman Butch reviewed correspondence as follows:

- ***D & R Greenway Land Trust Appreciation Plaque*** – displayed at meeting
- ***Sierra Club Resolution to Preserve Princeton Nurseries in Open Space***
- ***NJ DEP Green Acres Program Management & Use Agreement*** – the Lichtman Property Management and Use Agreement has been signed by the Mayor and returned to Renee Jones of the NJ DEP Green Acres Program for execution.
- ***NJ DEP & GSPT approval of Green Acres matching grant \$300K*** – Ms. Butch will clarify prior to the next OSFP Council meeting whether this is an additional \$300K or if this amount is already in Millstone's account.

Old Business

- ***NJ's 12th Annual Land Conservation Rally*** - The following members have been registered to attend the rally on Saturday, March 8th : Mr. Blanco, Ms. Butch, Ms. Siedman & Mr. Wingerter along with Council Secretary, Lori Maher, and Land Use Administrator, Pam D'Andrea
- ***Bond Ordinances*** – Mr. Wingerter informed the Council that Ms. Butch, Mr. Blanco and he had attended the February 20th Township Committee to testify in support of the following bond ordinances, which were all passed unanimously:
 - No. 08-04 (Boyken property, Boyken trail, Kenney property & Nurko property)
 - No. 08-05 (Lee property)
 - No. 08-06 (Wong property)
 - No. 08-07 (Hom property)
 - No. 08-08 (Resolution of areas of confusion on Block 46, Lot 4.01)

- **The following old business items were tabled until the March meeting due to time constraints**
 - **Trails**
 - **Goals for 2008**
 - **Budget for 2008**
 - **Baird Road/Waters 40 acre update**

New Business

- **SADC response to the Municipal Farmland Plan** - Ms. Butch reviewed the Application Review Checklist and comments from the SADC that need to be addressed; updates will be sent to Mr. Coppola to revise the Farmland Plan document; requested maps will be provided by Avakian/Lisa Spaziano; stewardship program detail will be addressed after council members attend the Land Conservation Rally on March 8th; Township vs. County minimum eligibility criteria will be clarified by Ms. Butch; Agriculture Economic Development questions will be forwarded to the Agricultural Advisory Council for comment; Ms. Butch requested assistance from the Council with preparing a vision statement and reviewed the timeline for responding back to the SADC within the 60 day period which includes making all requested correction, posting the plan for public review, holding an open meeting for public comment, having the plan read and approved by the Planning Board as an amendment to the Master Plan and then having the Township Committee approve the final plan. Mr. Romano made a motion to hold the second and final open meeting for the Farmland Plan in mid-March (with a date to be determined) with a second offered by Mr. Wingerter and all in favor.
- **Lee Farm Auction and Closing:** The farm auction will take place on Saturday, March 1st; the property closing with the Township is anticipated for mid-March.
- **State Department of Agriculture Closure:** Council members discussed the importance of the Department of Agriculture and actions that can be taken to voice concerns to legislators about the department closure; Ms. Butch suggested that the OSFP Council in conjunction with the Agricultural Advisory Council prepare a letter to legislators voicing opposition to the department closure; Mr. Romano requested that information about the department closure be placed on the Township website; Mr. Wingerter suggested preparing a resolution and forwarding it to other towns to join together in opposition of the department closure.
- **Easements** – Mr. Wingerter informed the Council that Monmouth University had worked with the Monmouth Conservation Foundation last year to devise a database of donors, which was provided free of charge to the non-profit group; Mr. Wingerter will look into the possibility of Monmouth University providing assistance with the creation of a database of the Township's easements; the Secretary will investigate the specifications required by the Green Acres Program for documenting easements and will work with Mr. Wingerter to prepare a Request for Proposal to Monmouth University.

Events

- **Clambake:** Mr. Wingerter provided a recap of the 2007 Clambake donations, sales and expenses; gross sales for 2008 are expected to exceed prior year sales due to 2 separate seating times; the clambake will be held at the Clarksburg Inn on Sunday, June 8th, and the rental fee of \$900.00 will cover the cost of the outside area for the day and 2 Inn employees; Mr. Wingerter noted the importance of recruiting volunteers and requested that all Council members contact the Secretary with volunteer commitments by March 7; Mr. Wingerter also suggested requesting putting the t-shirt design out to school children; Ms. Schloss suggested establishing a procedure and having a supply of "to-go" containers to accommodate take-out requests.

Committee Reports

- ***Public Relations/Publications*** – a proof of the March issue of the Open Space & Farmland Preservation Council newsletter was distributed to Council members for review; the newsletter is scheduled to be mailed with the annual Township mailing at the end of March.
- The following committee reports were tabled until March due to time constraints
 - ***Finance***
 - ***Preservation Signage***
 - ***Legislative Awareness***
 - ***Stewardship***
 - ***Review Planning Board and Board of Adjustment Applications***

At 8:55 PM a motion was made by Mr. Wingerter to move to executive session with a second offered by Mr. Denardo and by unanimous vote the Council moved to executive session.

At 10:00 PM the Council returned to regular session. Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Wingerter and with a second offered by Mr. Romano and by unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher