

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP  
OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 26, 2009**

At 7:43 PM, Ms. Butch called the meeting to order.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

**Roll Call**

Present: (8) Asprocolas, Butch, Denardo, Kuczinski, Morelli, Romano, Schloss, Siedman  
Absent: (3) Alves, Blanco, Kau

**Public Comment**

The public comment portion of the meeting was opened at 7:44 PM and with no public in attendance was closed at 7:44 PM.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Romano with a second offered by Mr. Kuczinski to approve the January 22, 2009, minutes. Roll call vote:

Ayes: (6) Romano, Kuczinski, Asprocolas, Butch, Schloss, Siedman

Nays: (0)

**Correspondence/News Releases**

- ❖ *Backyard composting presentation:* provided by Monmouth County; will be at the Wagner Farm Sports Complex on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM
- ❖ *Monmouth County Park System:* the park system is offering a Perrineville Lake Park walking tour, given by a park system naturalist who will provide information about plants and animals living in the park; the 1½ hour tour will be held on April 25 and May 2; the fee is \$8.00/person and is limited to persons age 17 years and older
- ❖ *Solar renewable energy seminar:* will be held on March 6<sup>th</sup> at the Monmouth County Extension Office in Freehold; given by the NJ Board of Public Utilities and the NJ Farm Bureau; subject matter will cover solar and other types of energy sources that can be used on farms
- ❖ *The Panhandle Region Plan Newsletter:* is available on the Township website at [://www.millstone.nj.us/Panhandle\\_Region\\_Plan\\_Newsletter1.pdf](http://www.millstone.nj.us/Panhandle_Region_Plan_Newsletter1.pdf)

**Old Business**

❖ **Trails**

- **Industrial Park:** Ms. Butch will contact Mr. Kaufman regarding status
- **County Road crossing on Agress Road:** has received final DoT approval; the County has agreed to stripe the roadway and the Township will post crossing signs and take care of the site triangles; completion expected in April
- **\$25K Recreational Trail Grant:** the trail extends from the Baird Road entrance of Perrineville Lake Park to Fairplay Road to the Witches Hollow section of the park; Ken Gann will head clearing; Ms. Butch and Ms. Spaziano will work with Mr. Gann regarding the grant's trail specifications

❖ **13<sup>th</sup> Annual NJ Conservation Rally**

- Ms. Butch, Mr. Romano, Mr. Kau, Ms. D'Andrea and Ms. Maher will be attending the rally on Saturday, March 7, 2009

- Ms. Butch and Ms. D'Andrea have been asked to sit at a roundtable and present information about the Township's stewardship of open space easements

❖ **Beaver damage**

- 15 mature beaver have been trapped: 7 from the Millstone River behind the Halka and Livak properties where trail damage was caused by flooding from the dams; another 2 were trapped on the former Lee Farm with the remainder trapped at various points along the Millstone River
- The next step is to remove the dams
- Damage to the Lee pond is being repaired

**New Business**

- ❖ **Conservation Easement Flyer:** The flyer has been updated to include information about markers and the stewardship program
- ❖ **Badges:** Council members photographing easements should obtain badges from the municipal building
- ❖ **Trail Grant work:** The DPW is heading trail grant work and will provide 20% in-kind service to obtain the \$25K grant money

**Events**

- ❖ **Possible Open House at Remarkable Sites:** nothing new to report
- ❖ **Pleasure Pace**
  - Scheduled for Sunday, September 27, 2009
  - Audrey Ginolfi is the event chairperson
  - Ms. Ginolfi met with Mr. Pickering and has provided all information to obtain an insurance rider for the event
  - The OS&FP Council is co-sponsoring the event
  - Release forms and application forms will go to Mr. Kaufman for approval
  - Mr. Pickering has given permission to utilize the Wagner Farm Complex facility; no portable bathrooms will be needed
  - Mr. Masci agreed to schedule an away football game for the day of the event
  - The course is currently being planned out
  - The State Police have been contacted regarding a potential road crossing at Sweetman's Lane
  - Mr. Halka has provided permission for a return route through the nursery
- ❖ **Clambake 2009**
  - Ms. Siedman contacted Mr. Wingerter, who informed her that fundraisers are off by 30%
  - The Secretary will contact the Clarksburg Inn regarding the contract specifications and the last date to cancel
  - Potential sponsors were discussed; Council members should email sponsor suggestions to the Secretary
  - Mr. Kuczinski made a motion to move forward with the planning of the 2009 Clambake Fundraiser for Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, and sending solicitation letters to sponsors; a second was offered by Ms. Siedman with all in favor

## Committee Reports

### ❖ **Finance**

- **Open Space Trust:** Mr. Kuczinski will take care of having the farm market expense charged to the Ag Council's operating budget

### ❖ **Preservation Signage**

- Mrs. Mary (Pilcher) Walter requested a Preserved Farmland sign for the Pilcher Farm on Charleston Springs Road
- The Secretary mailed the form and State contact information to Mrs. Walter

### ❖ **Public Relations/Publications**

- A draft copy of the newsletter was provided for review
- Article layout and revisions were discussed
- The Secretary will revise the newsletter

### ❖ **Legislative Awareness**

- Farmland Assessment Bill, Senate No. 2118, proposed by Senator Jennifer Beck; the bill will raise minimum income from \$500 to \$1,000 for farmland assessment and will affect farmers and farming in New Jersey
- Equine and breeding industry is moving to surrounding states that permit slot parlors at racetracks; these states are benefiting while New Jersey's horse/breeding industry deteriorates; push back in New Jersey has come from the casinos; legislation impacts the Township because several of the top drivers and breeders live in Millstone; Governor Corzine has stated that there will not be a question on the ballot this year regarding slots at the racetracks.

### ❖ **Stewardship**

- Ms. Siedman explained that Council members are continuing to walk properties and take pictures
- An intern is scheduled to start on Monday, March 2, and will take pictures of properties

### ❖ **Watershed Committee:** The Committee has been formed but hasn't met yet

### ❖ **Recreation Planning Committee**

- Mr. Masci is the Committee Chair
- Members of the Committee walked the property last weekend
- A consultant will be hired to begin planning phase

### ❖ **Review Planning Board and Board of Adjustment Applications:** nothing new to report

At 8:28 PM, a motion was made by Mr. Romano with a second offered by Mr. Denardo and by unanimous vote the Council moved to executive session.

At 9:36 PM, the Council returned to regular session and having no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Siedman with a second offered by Ms. Schloss and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 9:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher