

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

At 7:44 PM, Ms. Butch called the meeting to order.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

Roll Call

Present: (9) Blanco, Butch, Denardo, Kau, Kuczinski, Morelli, Romano, Schloss, Siedman
Absent: (2) Alves, Asprocolas

Public Comment

The public comment portion of the meeting was opened at 7:45 PM and with no public in attendance was closed at 7:45 PM.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Schloss with a second offered by Mr. Denardo to approve the February 26, 2009, minutes. Roll call vote:

Ayes: (7) Schloss, Denardo, Butch, Kuczinski, Morelli, Romano, Siedman

Nays: (0)

Correspondence/News Releases

Financial Disclosure Statements were distributed; all Council members are required to complete and return two original forms to the Township Deputy Clerk, Nancy Warnick.

Old Business

➤ **Trails**

- **Industrial Park:** Mr. Kaufman informed Ms. Butch that the attorneys are working on this trail
- **County Road crossing on Agress Road:** substantial progress has been made since the last meeting; DPW has cleared trees; the site triangle is done; Mr. Halka has donated 6 white pine trees and the area has been marked where trees will be planted; a fence will be installed; mark-out for sign installation has been done; the Township is responsible for sign installation; work should be completed within the next couple of weeks; the County will stripe the roadway and the crossing will be opened
- **Permitted uses on existing deeded easement trails:** this is being completed while going through deeds for the stewardship process

➤ **13th Annual NJ Conservation Rally**

- Roundtable meetings were new this year; Ms. Butch and Ms. D'Andrea sat with an anjec representative and discussed stewardship grants
- Ms. D'Andrea is completing a \$20,000 anjec grant application
- Time spent walking and photographing properties for stewardship can be counted as in-kind service towards the grant
- Grant money would be used to purchase a GPS unit, hire an intern and have easements surveyed

➤ **Trail Grant Work**

- Ms. Butch and Ms. Spaziano walked the orchard open space on Perrineville Road
- Trees were tagged and the trail path has been determined
- The DPW will mow and clear the trail
- The Township Committee is receptive to having a small parking area once the trail is cleared

New Business

- **Letter of Support for anjec Grant for GPS and Intern**
 - Ms. Butch passed the grant proposal around for review
 - The grant application must be submitted by 3/31/09
 - Ms. Butch read a letter of support (from the OS&FP Council) for the anjec grant to the Council
 - Mr. Kuczinski made a motion to send the letter of support for the anjec grant with a second offered by Mr. Kau and all in favor

Events

- **Possible Open House at Remarkable Sites:** nothing new to report
- **Pleasure Pace**
 - Scheduled for Sunday, September 27, 2009
 - Sponsorships are coming in
 - T-shirts have been donated
 - Vendors for breakfast and lunch have been obtained
 - State Police have been notified
 - The Township has approved the event
 - Permission has been obtained to go through Wagner Farm Park
 - Trailers will be parked beneath the high tension wires across from Wagner Farm Park
 - There will be a maximum of 50 teams consisting of 2 to 3 people each (max of 150 people)
 - There will be staggered start times over the course of 4 to 5 hours
 - Advertising will begin close to summer
 - Hunting will not be an issue because the event is taking place on Township-owned property
- **Clambake 2009**
 - A report of donations received to date along with a list of solicited businesses was distributed for review
 - The deck rental fee at the Clarksburg Inn is \$1,000 with a \$200.00 non-refundable deposit due to hold the date
 - Ticket prices will remain the same as last year: \$25.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children

Committee Reports

- **Finance/Open Space Trust:** Open Space Trust funds were moved to a demand deposit account in February to obtain a higher interest rate
- **Preservation Signage:** nothing to report
- **Public Relations/Publications**
 - A draft copy of the newsletter was provided for review
 - Revisions include Clambake ticket prices and 2 separate seating times
 - The Clambake announcement will be included in the May 6th Township Newsletter
 - The Pleasure Pace announcement will go into the September 2nd Township Newsletter; the Secretary will contact Ms. Ginolfi regarding the announcement
- **Legislative Awareness**
 - There is a proposed water use fee that would be used to fund open space and farmland preservation; usage can be determined for a monitored water system, but how to measure well and septic systems has not been

- determined; well and septic usage may be determined by a formula; farmers will probably be exempt
- Senator Beck has co-sponsored legislation to tighten rules for farmland assessment
 - The Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of NJ, the Thoroughbred Breeders Association of NJ and the casinos have filed suit in federal court to legalize sports wagering in New Jersey; revenues from sports wagering could be used to fund open space
 - Money from farm bill and from stimulus package are for direct use on commercial farms for renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power; even preserved farms will be permitted to generate up to 10% above what is used; this legislation has already been passed
 - **Stewardship**
 - Ms. Siedman explained that 31 of the 32 original open space properties are done; the last property will be done in fall due to the beaver damage
 - Ms. D'Andrea needs to supply paperwork for 2 additional properties prior to stewardship visits
 - The intern completed 6 properties and found issues with 5 of the 6
 - Issues include storing firewood on open space and a paved driveway on a conservation easement that was approved by the Township's previous engineering firm
 - There are approximately 300 conservation easements; photographing will resume in fall due to growth of underbrush
 - **Watershed Committee:** The Committee has been formed but hasn't met yet
 - **Recreation Planning Committee:** A meeting has been scheduled for April
 - **Review Planning Board and Board of Adjustment Applications:** Shelly's School for Dogs was heard at last night's Board of Adjustment meeting; Ms. Butch testified and requested a trail and conservation easements; application was carried to next month

At 8:32 PM, a motion was made by Ms. Siedman with a second offered by Mr. Romano and by unanimous vote the Council moved to executive session.

At 9:34 PM, the Council returned to regular session and having no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Blanco with a second offered by Mr. Romano and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 9:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher