

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 25, 2010**

Ms. Butch called the meeting to order at 7:55 pm.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

Roll Call

Present: (7) Asprocolas, Butch, Denardo, Kuczinski, Morelli, Schloss, Siedman

Absent: (3) Blanco, Kau, Romano

Public Comment

No public in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Schloss with a second offered by Ms. Siedman to approve the January 28, 2000, minutes. Roll call vote:

Ayes (5) Schloss, Siedman, Butch, Kuczinski, Morelli

Nays (0)

Correspondence: No correspondence to discuss.

Old Business

- **Trails**
 - **Industrial Park:** Nothing new to report.
- **Trail Grant Work**
 - Trail grant work is progressing; the number of markers required for the trail has been determined; Ms. Butch will contact Mr. Morelli to obtain vendor information for the trail markers.
 - The DPW will be doing the work on the Buono trail.
- **Farm Leases on Township-owned Open Space**
 - Resolution 10-75 awards the lease of farmland on Block 52, Lot 13 (former Lee Farm) to the highest bidder, Carmine Infante, LLC.
 - The Township has the option each year to pull land out of the leased area for field or park development.
- **Capital to the Coast Bike Trail:** Nothing new to report.
- **Hand-held GPS for Stewardship:** Nothing new to report.
- **Subcommittee Assignments:** Council members should contact the Secretary if there are any changes to subcommittee assignments.

New Business

- **Determine which open space surveys will be done in 2010**
 - Ms. Butch suggested compiling a list of open space properties that need to be surveyed.
 - The list should include all properties with boundaries that are difficult to discern by Council members who have been performing stewardship work in the field.

- When the budget is approved, the list of open space surveys will be prioritized.
- All properties that the Township attorneys have been involved with have been surveyed and marked, including open space around Wagner Farm Park and around the orchards on Perrineville Road.
- The Shield Road open space will be included on the list.
- The White Birch open space will be put on the list but will be removed if the Trailblazers grant of \$25K is awarded; if the Trailblazers receive the grant, they will use the grant for the survey work.

Events

- **Possible Open House at Remarkable Sites:** Nothing new to report.
- **Clambake 2010**
 - The Clambake is scheduled for Sunday, June 6th, and will be held at Wagner Farm Park.
 - There will be 2 seatings: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm.
 - Ticket prices will remain the same: \$25/person (\$10/child – limited menu, no lobster); ticket price is determined by quantity of food, not by age.
 - The facility has been reserved and a memo has been sent to the Recreation Commission, via their Secretary, requesting permission to use the complex for this event.
 - Council members discussed the cleanliness, maintenance and water quality of the facility; Mr. Kuczinski will contact Mr. Kinsey regarding use of the facility.
 - Tables will need to be brought over from the community center by the DPW; the Secretary will reserve the tables.
 - Two lists were provided for review: the list of businesses and professionals who have been solicited in previous years and the Township business license file; Council members were asked to review the lists and assist with finding new sponsors by contacting any business owners they may know.
 - Mr. Asprocolas will bring an 8 foot grill for hamburgers, hot dogs and cherry stone roasted clams.
 - Mr. Asprocolas was asked to find the best price for the corn, watermelon, strawberries and lemons.
 - Mr. Denardo will bring a steam pot for the steamers.
 - Pulled pork will be cooked on the stove in the kitchen.
 - Ms. Butch will provide a container for the iced tea.
 - Ms. Butch contacted the Trailblazers who have volunteered their time for previous clambakes.
 - Details regarding necessary utensils and kitchen supplies will be discussed at the May meeting.
- **Millstone Day 2010**
 - A date has not been set yet.
 - The Council will not be sponsoring the bull ride due to the State permitting process.

Committee Reports

- **Finance/Open Space Trust**
 - The Open Space Trust account activity for 2010 was distributed for review.
 - The Council has a temporary operating budget pending the passage of the budget by the Township Committee.

- **Preservation Signage**
 - Ms. Butch mentioned that signs designating public access to Township-owned open space may be needed in areas that are not funded by Green Acres such as the Wagner Park open space area and the Shield Road open space because people don't know whether or not they are allowed on the property.
 - Letters were sent to the owners of preserved farms explaining the process for obtaining the SADC sign; to date the only response has been from the Restines who intend to contact the State directly.
- **Public Relations/Publications**
 - While the Council voted and approved to budget for three newsletters for 2010, there is nothing newsworthy for a Spring 2010 edition; the next Township mailing will be the distribution of tax bills in July; if there are any new acquisitions, a newsletter will be prepared and distributed.
 - The Clambake will be advertised in the Township newsletter, the Examiner, a school backpack drop, the website and PEG channel as well as postings at the municipal buildings and post offices.
- **Legislative Awareness**
 - Nothing to discuss at this time.
- **Stewardship**
 - **Stewardship Committee Meeting:** was held on Thursday, March 18th; this was a brief meeting to follow-up on action taken on identified encroachment issues; new issues are being identified as monitoring continues; Ms. Siedman and Mr. Kau monitored the Agress Road Wildlife Corridor on Monday, March 22nd, and will document concerns.
 - **NJ Land Rally:** Ms. Schloss, Ms. Siedman and Ms. Maher attended the rally on Saturday, March 20th; Ms. Siedman and Ms. Maher attended a workshop on easement enforcement that suggested the following:
 - Adopt and follow a sound monitoring policy.
 - Adopt and follow a sound enforcement policy.
 - Address every violation in proportion to its severity.
 - Reports should be thorough and include limiting factors such as snow covered ground.
 - The workshop presenter, from the NJ Conservation Foundation, stated that they will be putting together a one-day workshop on this topic.
 - The Environmental Commission is on board with monitoring conservation easements; an intern is also scheduled to work this summer and will be assisting with stewardship of easements.
- **Watershed Committee Liaison:** Nothing to report; Ms. Schloss provided an overview of a workshop attended at the Land Rally regarding watersheds; the town of Tewksbury is using GIS data to target watershed areas for land preservation.
- **Recreation Planning Committee:** The committee has not met.
- **Review Planning Board and Board of Adjustment Applications**
 - *232 Millstone Road, LLC/353 Sweetmans Lane, LLC:* the D variance application was denied at last night's BoA meeting; there were two main reasons for denial; one reason was the placement of a storm water management basin on restricted farmland; the main purpose of the basin would be to support the commercial enterprise; the second reason was presented by BoA Chairman, Mike Novellino, who read the definition of

the Neighborhood Commercial (NC) zone from the Master Plan; the definition states that the NC zone is for small scale commercial building similar to what currently exists in the Clarksburg and Perrineville sections of the township; Chairman Novellino explained that this application is a large scale rather than small scale plan.

At 8:42 pm, a motion was made by Mr. Denardo with a second offered by Ms. Morelli and by unanimous vote the Council moved to executive session.

At 9:11 pm, the Council returned to regular session. Having no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Morelli with a second offered by Ms. Schloss and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher