

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 26, 2014**

Ms. Butch called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

Roll Call

Present: (7) Bailey, Butch, Kuczinski, Marra, Morelli, Schloss (7:41 pm), Siedman

Absent: (3) Asprocolas, Denardo, Romano

Public Comment Session: Opened and closed at 7:35 pm.

Approval of Minutes

A Motion to approve the May 22, 2014, minutes was made by Ms. Siedman with a Second offered by Mr. Marra. Roll call vote:

AYES: (4) Siedman, Marra, Bailey, Butch

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Correspondence

- Ms. Butch received an email from Green Acres regarding the program's last funding round. While the SADC has no money left, the Green Acres Program has one more funding round. The Township will submit the Supplemental Funding Request Form which must be completed and returned to Green Acres by the July 31, 2014, deadline.

Old Business

- **Trails:** There is nothing new to report on the Industrial Park, White Birch and Doctors Creek trails.
- **2014 Clambake Fundraiser Review:** Discussion postponed.

New Business

- No new business was discussed.

Events

- **Millstone Day** is Sunday, September 21, 2014. Ms. Butch explained that the Open Space Council has had an information table with literature and pictures at Millstone Day for the past few years that is set up in a horseshoe pattern with other groups including the Ag Council, the Historic Commission, the Shade Tree Commission, Trailblazers and the Friends group. Ms. Butch asked Council members if they would prefer to set up and staff an individual information table or if they would like to continue with the group set up. Council members agreed that the group setup is better for council members that are involved with more than one group. Council members will communicate via email to work out coverage for the information table.

Committee Reports

- **Finance:** The Open Space Trust activity report for the period January 1, 2014, through May 31, 2014, was distributed for review. The tax levy is booked to the Open Space Trust once each year following certification of the tax levy by the County. Council members discussed charges associated with the Thomas Baird Homestead acquisition

and the Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant award for the development of the Baird Homestead.

- **Public Relations/Publications:** Ms. Butch explained that there is no reason to hold off on publishing the newsletter. Articles will include the Baird Homestead closing, the Trapani Farm, the need for a dedicated funding source for preservation and legislative awareness.
- **Legislative Awareness**
Ms. Butch discussed the following bills:
 - ACR-130/SCR-84, a concurrent resolution for a November ballot question, would dedicate 4% of the Corporate Business Tax revenues to fund farmland preservation, open space, historic preservation and blue acres land acquisitions. The proposal would not create, or raise, any new taxes and would provide \$100 million annually for farmland preservation and open space. In 2020, the dedication would increase to 6% and would provide an additional \$50 million annually for preservation.
 - A-3058/S-1050 would extend the dual appraisal funding formula for five years for land acquisitions in the Highlands region. The bill would provide equity protection for Highlands landowners who had their development rights taken away through legislation.
 - A-2108/S-1041 would ban fracking waste in New Jersey. While New Jersey has banned fracking, fracking waste from neighboring states is being transported into New Jersey. The Assembly has passed the bill which is now before the Governor.
- **Stewardship:** No discussion.
- **Review Planning Board and Board of Adjustment Applications:** No discussion.

At 7:42 pm a Motion was made by Mr. Kuczinski with a Second offered by Ms. Morelli and by unanimous vote the Council moved to executive session.

At 9:10 pm the Council returned to regular session.

Having no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Marra with a Second offered by Ms. Siedman and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher
Council Secretary