

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD**  
**JUNE 9, 2021**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic State of Emergency the Millstone Township Planning Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday June 9, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. was held using the Zoom Video Conferencing platform. Members of the public have the option to attend the meeting either by using a device (PC, laptop, tablet, or smartphone) or by dialing in via telephone. This information was provided on the Township Website and on the Planning Board Agenda.

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Newman at 7:41 p.m.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice and additional virtual meeting information.

Salute to the Flag.

Roll Call: Present: Beck, Butch, Grbelja, Newman, Oxley, Ziner  
Absent: Curtis, Dorfman, Pado, Pepe, Pinney, Youngs

**Meeting Minutes:** May 12, 2021

Chairman Newman asked if there were any suggested changes to the meeting minutes and seeing none, Mr. Ziner made a Motion to approve and Deputy Mayor Grbelja offered a Second. Roll Call Vote: Beck, Grbelja, Oxley, Newman voted yes to approve the meeting minutes.

**Public Comment Portion:** Chairman Newman opened the public comment portion of the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Seeing no public comment, he closed that portion of the meeting at the same time.

**REVIEW AND RECOMMEND:**

Open Space Preservation Council 2021 Local Government Stewardship Application.

Chairman Newman stated the Open Space Preservation Council has submitted a support letter for a stewardship grant, and the Board needs to review that this request is consistent with the master plan.

Planner Mertz gave an overview of the grant. The Township Open Space Preservation Council is applying for a stewardship grant to continue the preservation efforts for the property, known as the Barnegat Bay Preserve, located at 28 Burnt Tavern Road. The site is located in a critical part of the headwaters of the Toms River sub-watershed within the Barnegat Bay Watershed Management Area. The grant will allow for education opportunities on the property that will educate the public by creating awareness of the importance of protecting critical watershed resources to ensure clean drinking water, water recharge and flood prevention; preservation of habitat for native

species including threatened and endangered species; preservation and planting of trees and other vegetation to promote habitat; and will provide a passive recreation area with stunning views of wildlife and plant communities. Planner Mertz stated the Millstone Township Master Plan strongly supports this application for this grant. Specifically, under the Open Space, Recreation and Conservation Plan, the three key objectives are a, c, d. Objective A is to prioritize open space preservation, Objective C encourages recreational activities that build off of Millstone's inherent natural and scenic qualities, and Objective D is to establish scenic corridors. These are only three key objectives, but there are many more.

Chairman Newman asked if there were any questions. Seeing none he asked for a Motion and a Second to authorize him to sign the letter of support for the grant being sought.

Ms. Oxley made the Motion and Deputy Mayor Grbelja offered a Second. Roll Call Vote: Beck, Butch, Grbelja, Newman, Oxley, Ziner, voted yes.

New Business:

Attorney Steib composed a memo regarding the Board being able to continue with virtual meetings, or if they were required to return to in person meetings. He stated that NJSA 52:27D-18.11 is still in effect to authorize meetings to be conducted remotely by virtual means, and the Open Public Meetings Act permits public bodies to conduct meetings by means of communication equipment and that Zoom or similar type formats constitute communication equipment. If the municipality decides to resume in person meetings, you cannot inquire if a person has been vaccinated or not. Also, if mask wearing and social distancing requirements are imposed, limitations on spacing may result in difficulties if the number of people attending exceeds the available space. Chairman Newman suggested that the meetings remain virtual for now, and this should be revisited and added to the August agenda for discussion.

Seeing No New Business or Old Business, Chairman Newman Made a Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 7:57 p.m. and Deputy Mayor Grbelja offered a Second and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Jacus