

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 1, 2006**

Mr. Halka called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

The Board Secretary read the Adequate Notice statement.

Roll Call Vote: Present: Butch, Halka, Pinhas, Romano, Wilson

Approval of Minutes of April 3, 2006. Mr. Romano made a motion to approve and Ms. Butch offered a second. All in favor.

Congratulations to Mr. Halka on his appointment to the Monmouth County Agriculture Board. He was appointed to fulfill a two-month unexpired term.

Old Business:

Ms. Naugle informed the group that 211 letters were sent to local farm owners and lessees one week ago. To date, 15 e-mail responses have been received. The Mayor has requested that she be included in all mailings.

Ms. Pinhas requested clarification on the Right to Farm Ordinance 80-9, Paragraph 2, Line 4 reference to the Township Health and Sanitary codes. Ms. Naugle will research this prior to the next meeting.

Ms. Naugle informed the Council that Pam D'Andrea, Planning Board Secretary, has resent Ordinance 99-25 to the township engineer and planner to ensure compliance with future subdivisions. The Ordinance requires the developer to acknowledge that current or future adjacent farms may emanate noise or odors.

New Business:

The Council discussed the NJ Department of Agriculture "Humane Treatment of Domestic Livestock" proposed new rules. The manure removal component of the ruling will have significant impact on horse farms in town. Mayor Grbelja joined the Council to discuss possible ways the township might help.

- Mr. Romano recommended that the township establish a recycling area. This would also allow the town to earn recycling credits.
- Ms. Butch mentioned that some farmers will take the manure and use it as organic fertilizer. She also mentioned that there are grants available for composting that we might be able to use to purchase equipment.
- Ms. Pinhas mentioned that Gold's Organic Farm on Nurko Road in Roosevelt, NJ may have some ideas.

- Mayor Grbelja mentioned that there is concern that if the rules are too strict, the state could lose the equine industry. She has been talking with the Horseman's Association about creating a committee to make recommendations to the Township Committee. Owners of one or two horses living in residential areas will have trouble getting rid of manure. The state may require concrete pads for the manure. In that case, it might be feasible to have a place in the municipality. Mr. Romano, or Ms. Butch in his absence, will attend the committee meetings.

Mr. Romano recommended the Agricultural Advisory Council be listed on the township website. This will allow us to increase awareness of the group's activities as well as disseminate information. Information on the introductory letter, Right to Farm Act, and deer fencing will be initially posted. The commercial farm code will be added later. The Council will try to add new information each month.

The Barn Safety Class was discussed. Ms. Butch suggested we research to see if anyone in the state has already done this. Ms. Pinhas offered to check with her son who is currently enrolled in a Fire Training Program. Ms. Butch will check with Dr. Keenan regarding an educational video he did on trailer safety as well as barn safety. Mr. Halka and Ms. Pinhas will check with Delaware Valley College. The topic will be discussed again next month.

Ms. Butch discussed the Monmouth County Farm Lease Program. The county will be accepting bids in February. The term will be for three years. At this point, the Council needs to determine if any of the leases include horse trails. It is imperative that this information be known by the lessee so that planting is not done on the trail.

Mr. Romano discussed Millstone Day. He will invite Lillian Barry to attend. Mr. Halka will see if he can obtain Right to Farm brochures. Ms. Pinhas will contact the Allentown High School Future Farmers of America to see if they are interested in partnering with the Council.

At 8:42 p.m., Ms. Butch made a motion to adjourn with a second offered by Ms. Pinhas. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Naugle
Board Secretary