

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP  
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 6, 2006  
MEETING MINUTES**

At 7:20 p.m. the Meeting was called to Order.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call: Present: A. Romano, S. Pinhas, P. Butch. Absent: G. Wilson, Chet Halka.

Mr. Romano opened the Public Comment portion at 7:22 p.m. Seeing no public comment, he closed the public portion at 7:23 p.m.

Ms. Butch made a Motion and Mr. Romano offered a Second to approve the October 2, 2006 meeting minutes. Roll Call Vote: P. Butch, A. Romano and S. Pinhas voted yes to approve.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Romano discussed a date of February 5, 2006 for Rescue Training of Horses and Barn Fires. The training would take place at the Township Community Center. Mr. Romano discussed notifying the Fire and Rescue Departments, as well as OEM to attend the training. There was discussion of working off of the present list of farm owners to notify them of the training. Mr. Romano suggested getting notices out by December 15, 2006.

Ms. Butch advised that she would contact Dr. Kennan, a veterinarian who serves on several State Committees, to enlist his help in presenting the rescue portion of the training.

The Council worked on the particulars on how to put the training together.

Ms. Pinhas offered that Hans is the only small animal owner that would be participating in the rescue training.

The Council will put together a draft outline for the training. Mr. Romano suggested that there should be two separate presentations. One topic would be on how to handle animals. The Council discussed the former presentation given by the State discussed having a rescue box located outside of the barn containing materials to help get the animals out of the barn. The presentation addressed what to do before a vet arrives on the scene. The sessions should be divided into two nights: one for fire rescue and one for trailer rescue. The Council discussed the presentation should key into the Town's needs.

Mr. Romano discussed that Rutgers is having their own session and by attending we could see how they put their presentation together.

Ms. Butch would try to have Dr. Kennan there in March or April. Mr. Romano advised that the barn fire rescue presentation would be on February 5, 2006. Handouts will be available.

At the December meeting each member will report as follows: Ms. Pinhas will have spoken with the Fire Department, Ms. Butch will set up a conference call with Dr. Kennan and Mr. Romano will have set up a meeting with the Agricultural Department. The parties will e-mail each other as to the status of their assignments.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Millstone Day 2007: Ms. Butch discussed the addition of a mechanical bull ride, food and the continuation of the money booth. Food suggestions would be offering pulled pork, B-B-Q chicken and ribs. The Ag Council and Open Space would pull their efforts. Ms. Pinhas would approach the scouting community for volunteers to work as part of their community service. The food would already be prepared or at the very least, supplied.

Ms. Butch made a Motion and Ms. Pinhas offered a Second to have the Ag. Council work in conjunction with Open Space to host the event.

**14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL CONVENTION:** Mr. Romano stressed the importance of have a representative attend the convention, if only for one day. The convention is over a three-day period in Atlantic City. Mr. Romano questioned if the Council has the funds to allow for someone to attend. Mr. Romano will follow-up on this item.

**COUNCIL REAPPOINTMENTS:** All three members present voiced that they would like to continue on the Ag Council.

**OPEN SPACE AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION:**

Ms. Butch provided an update. She advised the State of New Jersey is short handed at this time, resulting in applications taking longer to process. Ms. Butch has been diligently trying to get things moving. She suggested writing letters to the Department of Agriculture concerning the problems at hand. She advised there are two farms that should have closed but due to the State manpower issues, they are delayed. Ms. Butch will contact the Farm Bureau.

The Council discussed the great feedback they have been receiving regarding the signs that were made by the 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

Ms. Butch advised that the Sinha and Dey preservation signs were going up. Ms. Butch advised four farms are to make offers. There is enough funding before the PIG monies are used up to select one more farm.

Mr. Romano will get phone numbers and contact information to Ms. Naugle for State lands that are available to farm. Ken Feldman, a Planner of Monmouth County Parks, is

putting a map together of land for lease rotation and he will let the Council know when this comes out.

The Council discussed leasing of farm properties. A copy of the law is on the website containing legislative links. It was discussed that Fish and Wildlife Department only leases to farmers if no hunting is done on the property. The County leases land on a 3-year lease.

Ms. Pinhas made a Motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Butch offered a second and by unanimous roll call vote the meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela D'Andrea