

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COUNCIL
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024
215 Millstone Road, Millstone Twp.
MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairperson Harper called the Meeting to Order at 7:36 p.m.

READING OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

The adequate notice was read by Secretary DeFelice.

ROLL CALL:

Present: (6) - Mr. Blackwell, Ms. Harper, Mr. Mamrega, Ms. Ming, Ms. Talyansky, Mr. Ziner

Absent: (4) Ms. Butewicz, Ms. Leineek, Mr. Madeam, Mr. Pado

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Opened public comment portion of the meeting at 7:38PM. Closed 7:38PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 25, 2024

Councilperson Ming made a motion to approve the minutes from April 25, 2024 and Vice-Chairperson Blackwell offered a second.

Roll Call: Mr. Blackwell, Ms. Harper, Mr. Mamrega and Ms. Ming voted in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

SPRING ROAD –

- **REMEDICATION:** The rear block wall of the old foundation was removed. Awaiting NFA certificate from DEP.

BARNEGAT BAY PRESERVE – Paving not complete. **SIGNS-** A list of the companies and pricing for the Historic Commission's interpretive signs was obtained from finance. The uprights for the signage were \$2,000 each. The 3'x4' fiberglass panels were \$425 each. Hunter Research created the content for the signs. This Council needs to begin work on the content for the signs at the Preserve. It was decided to have 4-5 signs. Entrance, Y in the path, Observation area and 1-2 along the path. Ms. Ming will look at the original bullet points and see what she can create. Mr. Blackwell, Ms. Harper and Ms. Ming will walk the trail and determine the sign locations.

MILLSTONE PARK PHASE II – Waiting for close out. There was a meeting today at the park with the Twp and PM Construction regarding the significant cracking and peeling of the hard court. The previous patchwork has failed. PM Construction is looking to subcontract additional repairs to the previous patchwork. A discussion ensued on why the Township engineer approved of the patchwork when there were significant concerns regarding the quality of the underlying work. It seems that we are placing band-aids on top of band-aids. The Council wanted to know who would be held accountable for the poor quality of the hard court surface and why contractors are paid up even though the product is failing.

A discussion on the condition of the various parks ensued. The Council is concerned that the

Township is not properly maintaining its parks. Mr. Ziner recommended that a percentage of Open Space funds be allocated to the maintenance of parks and open space properties. Mr. Blackwell opposed any specific allocation being set aside each year. The Township can use Open Space funds for repairs and maintenance at any time. It was recommended that the Township start addressing the issues at Abate Park.

CLARKSBURG CULTURAL CENTER – Mr. Blackwell noted that the building was built to assist with events held at the old church and to provide additional meeting space. The meeting room is complete. The sidewalk needs to be removed and replaced yet. The bike area will not open to the public until the project is complete.

BAIRD GREENHOUSE – Mr. Blackwell noted that research is ongoing. They are expecting a plan soon on what will be proposed. There is no budget yet but expect significant cost. The project will have to go out to bid. In 2023, the Township and Council gave approval for up to \$80,000 to be used for both the Windmill project and the Greenhouse project.

MILLSTONE PARK PAVILLION GRANT – The grant is awarded in October. Wait to see if we get the grant.

BROOKSIDE ROAD PROJECT – Block 60.02, Lots 3.02; 11.01-11.06; 19; 22-24. Najarian has been contracted to do the PASI. Survey markers should have been installed by now by Crest Engineering.

SHADE TREE PROJECT – The Shad Tree Commission will be writing up a program at their next meeting regarding a memorial program for trees and benches.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Residents have requested that the Agress Road Wildlife Corridor that runs behind the homes off Alpine drive and goes to the Assunpink be cleared of fallen trees. DPW will be notified.

EVENTS:

- Discussion on doing movie nights again. If possible, it might be planned for early November. Will need to look at costs and vendors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE REPORT –There seems to be significant recurring engineering costs associated with the Preserve. The Council would like to get clarification and much more detail regarding the number of inspection visits to the Preserve.

A discussion ensued on having someone from the Council oversee each project more closely to understand the costs and quality issues that seem to occur with Township projects. The Council felt that the volunteers can't spend the kind of time needed to oversee these construction projects during business hours. The Township has an engineer that should be overseeing the projects and should be held accountable for time and cost overruns. The Council was also frustrated that they can't get access to more detailed financial reports. Without detail, it is pointless to discuss a financial report.

It was noted that there are 9 active projects that need to be tracked and closed out.

No other committee reports.

At 9:33 p.m., Mr. Mamrega made a motion to leave the regular session and enter into Executive.

Seconded by Mr. Blackwell

At 9:40 p.m. the Council returned to the Regular Meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Harper and seconded by Ms. Ming. Meeting adjourned at 9:40PM

Respectfully Submitted

Andrew DeFelice, Open Space Preservation Council Secretary