

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP**  
**AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**OCTOBER 28, 2020**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

Chair Butch called the meeting to order at 8:26 p.m.

Chair Butch read the adequate notice.

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Butch, Butewicz, Peck  
Deputy Mayor Grbelja, Township Committee Liaison  
Amy Mandelbaum, SADC  
Elena Gable, P.P., Township Planner

**ABSENT:** Asprocolas, Pinhas (Alt), Posten

**PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION:** At 8:27 p.m., Chairperson Butch opened the Meeting to the Public. Seeing no public comments, she closed the public comment portion at the same time.

**MEETING MINUTES:** August 26, 2020

The August 26, 2020 Minutes are tabled to the next meeting. Ms. Butewicz motioned and Chair Butch seconded to table the minutes to the next meeting. Unanimous vote to table the August 26, 2020 minutes.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Amended Farmland Preservation Plan

Chair Butch announced that the County and State has reviewed the amended farmland preservation plan and made recommended provisions.

Planner Gable stated Steven Bruder of the State Agricultural Development Committee (SADC) would like to have the corrected plan before it is sent out.

Chair Butch indicated changes to amended Farmland Preservation Plan are including but not limited to: Section One, add "farmers" to "retired", and the Agricultural Advisory Council is a council and not a committee.

Chair Butch suggested the following correction, "Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council" mentioned to be changed to "Open Space Preservation Council" only as per ordinance no. 20-32 adopted on September 16, 2020 by the Millstone Township Committee.

Deputy Mayor Grbelja read section four of the plan and Chair Butch would like for the ADA section to be less specific due to the fact that Monmouth County's ADA Plan is only a draft at this time. We should review the draft plan when it is submitted to us for

comment. Chairperson Butch would like the year (2017) taken out of the same section due to it not being adopted by Monmouth County.

Planner Gable stated Mr. Bruder had a comment to add some more information about which farms have been preserved by which program and how much money has been spent by which program. Planner Gable will be adding a paragraph to section four with that information.

Continuing Section four, Chair Butch wants the title of “President of Monmouth County Equine” to be changed to “Save the Horse Committee” and add that we have had “past and current Presidents of the NJ Rutgers Agricultural Experiment Stations”, the “Board of Managers” needs to be added to the end.

In Section five, Chair Butch would like to add to “generating over 1.1 million in farmland preservation”, adding “historic preservation”.

In Section six there were changes requested by Chair Butch.

In Section seven, Chair Butch wants to change “adopting” to “adopted” to “requiring homebuyers notified by proximity of farms to new subdivision”.

Chair Butch wanted changes to section 9 regarding current issues, “other issues raised by ag and farmland community include a pattern of honor systems” be changed to “pattern of roadside farm stand honor system not being honored”. Chair Butch would like to change the statement for the Greenhouse bullet for “The Farm Bureau” aims to promote hemp production” and we need to find out how to promote hemp production as a crop for NJ farmers. And the last bullet “providing assistance to agritourism operations that will enable continued activity while encouraging social distancing guidelines” we talked about providing new marketing strategies such as online orders, a drive thru farm stand and other marketing strategies to serve local products.

Chair Butch, Planner Gable and Ms. Mandelbaum went over the sections discussing changes and items to be included in the Plan and Planner Gable made those changes during the meeting.

Planner Gable will send this evening’s edits to the secretary and Chair Butch.

Amended Farmland Preservation Plan – Ms. Butewicz motioned and Chair Butch seconded to accept the plan as amended with no further comment from the state, then the plan will be forwarded to the Millstone Planning Board. Roll Call Vote: Butch, Butewicz and Peck.

Potential Purchase of Movie Screen – Chair Butch discussed the four movie nights over the past summer using the social distancing protocols. The equipment was very expensive to rent, if there is a positive attendance for future movie nights the Open Space Council would like to move forward with the purchase of the equipment.

At 8:30 p.m., Ms. Butewicz made a Motion to leave the regular session and enter into the Executive Session to discuss preservation matters and Chair Butch offered a Second. Roll Call Vote: Butewicz, Butch and Peck.

Seeing no further business, Ms. Butewicz made a Motion to adjourn and Chair Butch offered a Second and at 8:54 PM the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Tillou  
Agricultural Advisory Secretary