

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2024**

Ms. Butch called the Meeting to Order at 7:36 p.m.

Ms. Butch welcomed Mr. Ziner to the Council as the TC Liaison.

Ms. Butch read the Adequate Notice at 7:38 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Asprocolas, Ms. Butch, Ms. Posten

Absent: Ms. Butewicz, Ms. Coppinger, Mr. Peck

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON: Councilperson Butch made a Motion to nominate Amy Butewicz as Chairperson and Councilperson Asprocolas offered a Second. All voted in favor to appoint Ms. Butewicz as Chairperson.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Councilperson Butch made a Motion to nominate George Asprocolas as Vice-Chairperson and councilperson Posten offered a Second. All voted in favor to appoint Mr. Asprocolas as Vice-Chairperson

MEETING SCHEUDLE: The council agreed to continue to meet in a virtual format. Mr. Asprocolas moved to set the meeting dates for the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Ms. Posten offered a second.

Adopting a monthly meeting schedule to be held at 7:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted or advertised.

February 13, 2024

April 9, 2024

June 11, 2024

August 13, 2024

October 8, 2024

December 10, 2024

March 12, 2024

May 14, 2024

July 9, 2024

September 10, 2024

November 12, 2024

January 14, 2025

Zoom. **Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6755709146?pwd=TGV4aXZ5RGZEdFJoNGxkYkY3YVRYQT09&omn=86261834540>

Meeting ID: 675 570 9146 Password:123

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No Public

MEETING MINUTES:

December 12, 2023 Minutes - Councilperson Butch made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Asprocolas offered a second.

Roll Call: Asprocolas and Butch voted in favor

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Spring Newsletter: The Secretary will send out dates for getting articles in. Looking to have a mid-April delivery for the Spring newsletter. Ms. Butch wants to have an article highlighting the mushroom farm in Millstone. Articles will be discussed and assigned at the February meeting. Newsletter usually sent out in the mail by 2nd week in April. Articles due 2nd week in March.

SADC Soil Standards Update: Representatives of the SADC will be attending the next Monmouth County Ag Board meeting and they should have some updated information at that time. Expect to have more information at our February meeting. Need to have our letter to the SADC shortly after the Ag convention on February 6-8. The new standards impact preserved farmland and would impose strict impervious/disturbance coverage limits in addition to soil conservation standards where none existed previously.

Deer Management: Tabled

NEW BUSINESS:

Ag Budget: Not much changed from last year. May need funds for seminars for this year. Don't anticipate any deer survey this year.

Labor Housing Ordinance: 2 similar bills have been presented. Please review them to discuss what Millstone can incorporate into its own labor housing ordinance. Should get more information after the Ag Convention. The housing ordinance needs to deal with both seasonal and year-round labor for equine and agricultural farming. The goal is to prevent labor housing from becoming rental housing once the property is no longer a farm. Committeeperson Ziner would like to see some type of framework while waiting on the State to implement something.

Farm Firewood Sales S3201: If legislation is signed by the Governor, it will give Right to Farm protection to that group. Council should read the legislation sent to them to get familiar with it.

Invasive Species S2186: There are lists of invasive species that you have to check before growing those items.

Wildlife Fencing S3916: Offering grants to all farms (preserved and non preserved). Hoping to get grants money increased per acre.

Alt Farm Appraisal S3279: Providing another methodology of appraising farms for preservation. No details yet.

NJ Ag Convention: The resolutions are all finished. Delegates will be getting the packets shortly in preparation for the convention.

Councilperson Butch moved to go to executive session at 8:15pm. Councilperson Posten offered a second.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:31PM.

Seeing no further business, Councilperson Posten moved to adjourn. Councilperson Butch offered a second. Meeting adjourned at 8:33PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

