

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COUNCIL
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022
215 Millstone Road, Millstone Twp.
MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairperson Scott called the Meeting to Order at 7:34 p.m.

READING OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

The adequate notice was read by Secretary DeFelice: Let the minutes show that adequate notice of this meeting, as required by P. L. 1975, Chapter 231, has been provided by publication in The Asbury Park Press and The Times of Trenton, and posted on the Township bulletin board and filed with the Township Clerk on April 22, 2022.

ROLL CALL:

Present: (7) Blackwell, Butewicz (7:37), Davis, Scott, Smith, Riggin, Ziner
Absent: (3) Avila, Morelli, Madeam

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairperson Scott opened the public comment portion of the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Seeing no public, she closed that portion of the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 24, 2022

Chairperson Scott made a motion to approve the minutes from January 27, 2022 and Councilperson Ziner offered a second.

Roll Call: Blackwell, Riggin, Scott, Smith and Ziner voted in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE: Chairperson Scott noted that she received the resignation of Councilperson Avila who is unable to contribute due to personal time constraints.

OLD BUSINESS:

BARNEGAT BAY PRESERVE – Committeeperson Davis noted that Ms. Rosati will be working with Chris Kelly to resolve issues related to the Preliminary Appraisal Report documentation. Mr. Shafai and Mr. DeFelice did a site review to assess development issues with the Preserve. It was noted that there is a 4 foot berm along the edge of the road where the parking lot is designated to go which will create a line of sight hazard for vehicles exiting the parking area. Both sides of the proposed entrance from Burnt Tavern Road will need to be cleared and leveled to remove the sight hazard. There is also a 5-7 foot berm surrounding the parking area that would be difficult to modify to allow for ADA Compliancy. The berm is overgrown with trees and would require significant soil disruption to remove. One option is to use the adjacent property that is owned by the Millstone Elks to provide handicap parking and access to the trail that would bypass most of the berm. The Millstone Elks are looking at adding handicapped parking spots on their front side that adjoins the Preserve.

Another option for providing regular parking with out disrupting or levelling the berms would be to use the Township owned property across the street that already has a parking area designated for future use and is level and open. A crosswalk would need to be installed but would allow for limited soil disruption and reduce costs.

CHALLENGER PLAYGROUND – No construction has begun yet. The bid was awarded.

MILLSTONE PARK PHASE II GRANT- Chairperson Scott noted that the Township will need approximately \$40,000 to complete the remaining items committed to in the current grant. This grant will need to be closed out before additional grants can be applied for. The Ad Hoc Committee has not met in a long time and there is no project manager overseeing this project. The Bocce Court, Horseshoe Pit and Baseball Backstops have yet to be installed. Councilperson Butewicz requested an update on the total cost of expenditures to date for this Phase of the Park. Councilperson Blackwell noted that the hardcourt surface is not a quality job and the patchwork applied last year is already popping. Committeeman Davis requested a volunteer from the council to join the Ad Hoc Committee. Councilperson Ziner volunteered. Secretary DeFelice will request a meeting for May 5th.

CLARKSBURG CULTURAL CENTER - The bids received were too high for the grant that was received. Other options are being reviewed.

DOCTORS CREEK TRAIL- Councilperson Blackwell asked if farmer Infante had any issues with the recent mark out of the back field at Millstone Park. Secretary DeFelice noted that there were no concerns addressed to us. The current lease calls for a 30 foot buffer for the Doctor's Creek Trail. We still have 2 additional fields that need to be marked out after the harvest.

BUONO TRAIL – Chairperson Scott and Councilperson Riggin went out to steward the trail. DPW cleared the trail and replaced missing markers. Councilperson Ziner asked if Millstone has a trail map identifying the various trails. Councilperson Blackwell commented that it has never been finalized. Many trails were conceptualized but additional easements are needed to connect them. He also noted that anyone clearing trails needs to take a class to understand the rules and proper methods required for properly clearing a trail. Any clearing that requires power tools needs to be referred to the Township for DPW assistance.

NEW BUSINESS:

MILLSTONE CLAMBAKE – Chairperson Scott noted that we are behind on our usual level of sponsorship and ticket sales. She asked the council to let her know if they will be assisting on the Sunday, May 22nd and what time.

LANDOWNER MEET & GREET: The Agricultural Council will be planning a meet and greet with landowners to discuss Farmland Preservation and Open Space Preservation programs. This event will be held in November.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE – Report moved to Executive session

FUNDRAISING – Already discussed.

GRANT WRITING – Nothing to Report

STEWARDSHIP – Waiting for information about the Livak Easement before Stewarding property.

PLANNING BOARD – Nothing to report.

EVENTS:

WEEKEND in OLD MONMOUTH – This is a 2 day event that is a self-guided tour highlighting historic sites in Monmouth County. The Baird House is one of the locations listed and will be open to tours this coming weekend.

FALL NEWSLETTER – Open Space will be responsible for creating the Fall newsletter put together by Open Space and the Agricultural Advisory Council. Chairperson Scott would like the council to come up with topics that should be included. Councilperson Ziner mentioned that information regarding the tree ordinance should be included.

At 8:33 p.m., Chairperson Scott made a motion to leave the regular session and enter into Executive Session. Councilperson Ziner offered a second. By unanimous vote the Council left the Regular Session and entered into Executive Session.

At 9:32p.m the Council returned to the Regular Meeting.

Seeing no further business, Chairperson Scott made a motion to adjourn and Councilperson Butewicz offered a Second. Meeting adjourned at 9:32p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Andrew DeFelice, Open Space Preservation Council Secretary