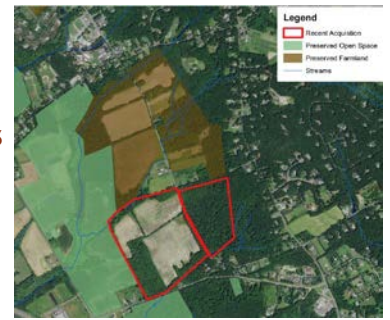




MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION & AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCILS

FALL NEWSLETTER 2025

Letter from the Chair



It is with great pride and dedication that I write to you as Chairperson of the Millstone Township Open Space Preservation Council. Our mission has always been to foster and promote the preservation of the natural beauty, equestrian lands, and farmland heritage that make Millstone Township truly special.

Millstone remains one of the region's most picturesque and agricultural communities. With rolling fields, preserved farmlands, and serene parklands, our township reflects a commitment to balance growth with conservation. This balance is critical as development pressures continue to shape our region.

Over recent years, our Council has worked tirelessly alongside township leaders, residents, farmers, and environmental advocates to ensure that open space and farmland preservation remain top priorities. Through collaborative efforts, we have achieved significant milestones that protect Millstone's unique landscape for generations to come.

Among our proudest accomplishments is the permanent preservation of 122 acres added to Millstone Park, a vital green space for our community's recreation and environmental health.

The Council also plays a crucial role in promoting awareness and supporting landowners throughout the preservation process. We guide applicants through necessary steps such as deed preparation, farmland assessments, and land surveys to streamline conservation efforts. Working closely with the Agricultural Advisory Council, we continually recommend parcels for preservation and provide assistance to the farming community that sustains Millstone's rich agricultural legacy.

We understand that open space preservation is not simply about protecting land but it is about preserving the very essence of Millstone Township's identity and future vitality. It is about maintaining clean air, water, and scenic beauty; sustaining local agriculture; and fostering a thriving, healthy community. Recently, ASEZ STAR's high school volunteer students whom live in Millstone and attend Allentown HS came to speak at the Open Space. Inna Husak stated, "Preserving Millstone's open spaces is the kindest thing we can do. ASEZ STAR is proud to stand with Millstone in keeping our environment green and sustainable for the future of our youth.

As we look ahead, the Millstone Township Open Space Preservation Council remains steadfast in its commitment to protecting open space and farmland amid ongoing development pressures. We welcome your participation, questions, and support, as together we continue to nurture the rural heart of Millstone.

Thank you for sharing this journey with us and for helping preserve Millstone's treasured landscapes for all who live, work, and visit here.

Christine Harper, Chairperson, Open Space Farmland Preservation Council



MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COUNCIL &
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL



Millstone Township's 16th Annual Clambake

Together with the Open Space Preservation Council and Agricultural Advisory Council, Millstone Township's 16th Annual Clambake on June 1, 2025, was a resounding success and a testament to our sponsors for their unwavering commitment to preserving Millstone's open space. Our sponsors this year included:

Wickie & Frank Hom

Halka Nurseries

A-Norton Septic

Avakian Inc

Davison Eastman Munoz

Collis, Vella & Castello

Heilbrunn Pape

Millstone Elks Lodge

Meco Inc

Michael B. Steib – Attorney

The Jersey Pawz

A Community Celebration

This annual event, occurring on the first Sunday in June, offers a wonderful opportunity for families to come together and enjoy a delicious seafood meal while mingling with neighbors they might not otherwise encounter. The proceeds from the event are directed towards the Open Space Preservation funds, building towards future acquisitions that will benefit the Millstone community.

The Clambake serves as a cherished tradition, fostering a spirit of community and shared purpose among Millstone residents. It is a day filled with laughter, delectable food, and meaningful connections, all in the name of preserving the natural beauty of our township.

We look forward to next year's Clambake and hope to see you there!

Losing our Roots: The Impact of Warehouses on Millstone's Open Land

Losing Our Roots: The Impact of Warehouses on Millstone's Open Land

Millstone has long been known for its magnificent farmland, scenic open spaces, and a way of life tied to agriculture and equestrian traditions. Our farms are the core of Millstone making it a desirable place to call home.

Today, these treasured lands are increasingly being replaced by massive warehouses. As farmland is sold and cleared, we lose not only beautiful landscapes but also the essence of Millstone's identity. However, there's a price to pay.

While large-scale warehouses may promise jobs and tax revenue, the tradeoff is steep:

- ***Loss of farmland & agriculture*** – Every paved acre reduces future local food production and working landscapes.
- ***Environmental strain*** – Heavy truck traffic, noise, air pollution, and storm-water runoff increase flooding risks and degrade habitat.
- ***Equestrian culture at risk*** – Fewer open trails and safe riding areas mean fewer places to train, water, and cool horses.
- ***Erosion of community memory*** – Meadows, ponds, and barns where residents swam, rode, and picnicked are replaced by asphalt and loading docks.

Millstone's rich agricultural base continues to face pressure with the development from industrial/warehouse uses, underscoring the need to protect remaining farmland and open space. (Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners, 2022).

We face a choice: keep trading farmland for warehouses, or prioritize preservation through open-space acquisitions, farmland easements, thoughtful zoning, and community advocacy. Protecting land protects our history, our environment, and our township's character.

Imagine the field where families picked apples and horses drank from a stream. Now picture that same spot beneath blacktop and loading bays. The contrast is stark and permanent.

Do you remember:

- Swimming in a creek on a hot day?
- Watering horses at a farm pond?
- Riding under a canopy of old oaks?
- Picnicking in meadows that are now fenced perimeters?

Your memories help our neighbors visualize what's at stake.

We are collecting before-and-after photographs of Millstone properties that once embodied our rural beauty and are now industrial sites.

Help the next generation know the beauty of Millstone before it's gone.



Community Call-to-Action

👉 Send to: christine@gbysm.com Subject: Preserving Millstone_Memories

✓ Your Voice, Your Memories

Do you remember fishing, riding, or walking on the farms and open lands that are now warehouses? Did you or your family grow up enjoying those spaces?

Share your photos and stories!

We'd love to include local memories and before-and-after images in future editions of the Millstone Newsletter. Together, we can preserve the history and spirit of our community.

Send your memories and photos to:

Christine Harper
christine@GBYsm.com

Let's make sure the next generation knows the beauty of Millstone before it's gone.



FEATURING A MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP FARM PRODUCT

TWO RIVER GOURMET MUSHROOMS – MUSHROOM BROTH

Two River Gourmet Mushrooms, located at Mighty Dare Farm at 145 Stillhouse Road in Millstone Township, is renowned for the freshest and finest mushrooms around! Created by KC Sullivan in an exciting collaboration with farm co-owners Kurt Cavano & Scott Szegeski, the farm is proud to showcase their MUSHROOM BROTH product. In a collaboration with the Rutgers Food Innovation Lab & the University of North Carolina Food Innovation Lab, a truly unique product was created. The recipe embodies the natural antioxidants and nutrients in the mushrooms which lend to the benefits of immunity support. The mushroom broth is made with organic Lion's Mane and Shiitake mushrooms to create a distinctive, savory, earthy flavor or “umami” flavor. Enjoy simply warmed for sipping or substituted as stock for soups, sauces & gravies --- think miso soup and Ramen noodles. Since its formation, Two River has grown in leaps and bounds sourcing their USDA Certified Organic mushrooms to boutique local markets, statewide retailers and restaurants and now onto a national level networking with fine food distributors.

TWO RIVER GOURMET MUSHROOMS is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
6 days a week...Monday through Saturday

Hours 10am – 4pm

For more information on touring this incredible farm, visit:

<https://www.tworivermushroom.com>



MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP PRESENTS

Winter onderland

HOLIDAY SEASON CELEBRATION
AT MILLSTONE PARK
4 RED VALLEY RD

**FRIDAY
DEC 5, 2025
5-9 PM**

JOIN US IN SPONSORING THE EVENT
THROUGH THE QR CODE OR LINK BELOW:
WWW.SHELP.ORG

LIVE HOLIDAY MUSIC & DANCE
FOOD TRUCKS
VENDORS
CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING
PICTURES WITH SANTA
CRAFTS AND INFLATABLES FOR THE KIDS
& MUCH MORE
BROUGHT TO YOU BY
MILLSTONE TWP RECREATION, SPONSORS AND KIND VOLUNTEERS

TOWNSHIP OF MILLSTONE

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COUNCIL
470 STAGE COACH ROAD
MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP, NJ 08510

PRSR STD
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LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

Agricultural Advisory Council

Amy Butewicz, Chairperson
Pat Butch, Vice Chairperson
George Asprocolas Kate Posten
Randy Peck Brianna Coppinger
Chris Morris Twp. Committee Liaison

Millstone Township Committee

Al Ferro, Mayor
Chris Morris, Deputy Mayor
Eric Davis
Tara Zabrosky
Jeff Ziner

Open Space Preservation Council

Christine Harper, Chairperson
Mark Blackwell, Vice Chairperson
Amy Butewicz Suzanne Ming
Sara Leineek Tom Pado
Gene Madeam Victoria Talyansky
Tara Zabrosky Twp. Committee Liaison

HUZZAH! SAVE THE DATE

Millstone Township is gearing up to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the

U.S.A, and we've asked George Washington and the 1st NJ Regiment to come celebrate with us!

Participate in a Musket Drill & learn about Millstone's past during the War for American Independence, and more!

**George Washington Encampment
Saturday May 30, 2026**

Thomas Baird Homestead
24 Baird Rd Millstone Twp., NJ

Email: brightmeadows1@aol.com

