

**MINUTES
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
April 9, 2018**

The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee was called to order by Chairperson Leonard Fritz at 7:00pm in the 2nd Floor Joe Pace Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex. Adequate notice of this meeting was given as required by the annual notice of meetings.

Chairperson Leonard Fritz led the Commission in the salute to our flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ty Cossaboon, Leonard Fritz, Brent Salvadori, Robert Toomer

Excused: Chuck McGlynn, Cncl. Cody Miller

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Len asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2018 meeting. Aileen Chiselko, the acting secretary, made a correction to the minutes that she typed, she had left out Brent's name under Present Roll Call. Robert Toomer made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of January 22, 2018 with the correction of adding Brent's name. The motion was seconded by Brent Salvadori and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Len asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public for discussion. Brent Salvadori made a motion to open the floor. The motion was seconded by Ty Cossaboon and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance. There was no one from the public present. With no one from the public present and/or wishing to speak, Brent Salvadori made a motion to close. The motion was seconded by Ty Cossaboon and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

With reference to the Ordinance changes, Len advised the Committee that during his last meeting with the Ordinance Committee, he was advised that he needed to get in contact with the attorney. He has since talked to our Council Liaison, Cncl. Miller, and Cncl. Miller has advised that we need to Red Line the Ordinances that we want to change and he will take care of it from there for us. Len has gone ahead and put together everything that has previously been discussed, red-lined, marked up what needed to be done. He passed around his copy for everyone to look at and discuss.

Len said that one of the big things that was previously talked about was the amount of space being preserved (percentages). Jerry Carey (previous member) had researched and compiled a lot of that information, Jerry basically capsulized all of the other ordinances and it seemed to be basically in one zone. The way that our township is set up, is that each zoning district has a certain amount (percentage) of open space.

Len raised the question about how we need to verify the ratio and maybe make it “And/Or”. Len gave some information about some neighboring towns such as Harrison Twp. who is tough (1 acre of open space per 5 acres) and Mantua has (1 acre of open space per 100 residents in a project, so it is a density issue and not a percentage per zone). It is agreed that density is a big issue. Len said he will talk to Cody about it, so the solicitor can take a look at it. Brent and Rob agree with what Len is discussing. We need to get rid of the option of paying a fee in lieu of open space, so we can have the open spaces again. He gave the example of the townhomes and apartments behind Sams Club, it’s a lot of density and very little open space, and there is a walking trail that is supposed to be their open space along with their community pool, which is only open a few months out of the year. Most other towns have a blanket percentage where ours is more definitive per zone, the developers nowadays are getting more creative, with their clustering, and that’s why we need to face them with the OR. Rob mentioned drainage/basins as being considered open space. Len advised that a lot of our basins in this town are hands off with fences around them and they are more regulated than the wet lands are. Len gave an example that when you have 20 acres it is 20% or in our town it is 30%, you would have 3 acres that are preserved and out of that 3 acres half of that could be wetlands with a Pinelands buffer, this gives the option of getting more usable land. Dir. of Public Works, Mike Calvello and Dir. of Code Enforcement, Rosemary Flaherty are working on an evaluation list of all of the basins in town, that the township owns and operates they are trying to gather what they are, how they are designed and how they can be retrofitted, etc., but Len has not heard of any updates yet, he will touch base with Mr. Calvello before the next meeting. Those findings will help in the next step in attracting more of the open space that we need in our town.

Len talked about the Tot Lots needing to come out, they are a liability, the money that is put into their maintenance seems to be thrown away, as it seems that they get destroyed as soon as they updated/maintained. Ball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts are also too much for a development to worry about and would raise the cost of the homeowner association and cause them to fold quicker than they already seem to do.

Brent suggested that we table the discussion to the changes to the Ordinance until the next meeting. Aileen suggested that Len come up with a draft copy with all of his suggestions/changes and that he send that out to everyone before the next meeting so that the committee has the time to read through everything and make comments/feedback. Len agreed to get everything together and he will send it out prior to the next meeting via email.

Len brought up that there are events in town coming up, The Arts Festival, The Music Festival and National Night Out, we should attend these events and hand out our cards, like we did last year.

Brent mentioned Parks and Recs – The Easter Egg Hunt was fabulous, 10K eggs were gone in less than 2 minutes. He mentioned that when they first started it years ago, they only had 500 eggs. He is impressed about how big this event has grown.

Len advised everyone that Chuck McGlynn will be back with us for meetings at the end of the Semester, end of May.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairperson Leonard Fritz asked for a motion to adjourn. Brent Salvadori made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of April 9, 2018. The motion was seconded by Ty Cossaboon and unanimously all in favor by all members of the Commission in attendance. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenn Harbison, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee meeting is Monday, May 7, 2018 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of April 9, 2018 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

Approved as submitted _____ Date _____
Approved as corrected _____ Date _____