

**MINUTES
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
July 2, 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, Robert Toomer, Chuck McGlynn and Cncl. Cody Miller

Excused: Brent Salvadori

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Len Fritz asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 4, 2018 meeting. Ty Cossaboon made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of June 4, 2018. The motion was seconded by Robert Toomer and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Rob Toomer made a motion to open the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Ty Cossaboon and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance. With no one from the public present and/or wishing to speak, Ty Cossaboon made a motion to close the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Chuck McGlynn and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Patrick McDevitt from Sustainable Monroe and Fred Akers from the Great Egg Harbor River Council were in attendance to present their Sustainable Monroe Project.

Patrick suggested making a correction to the Mary 7th meeting minutes in reference to the Sustainable Monroe Project and Grant money received. Patrick stated that the Grant received is coming from the Great Egg Harbor Watershed to have Rutgers perform 3 studies in Monroe Township with regards to impervious Cover Assessment, a Reduction Action Plan and a Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study. It doesn't have anything to do with the basin at the Pfeiffer Center at this point in time. The basin at the Pfeiffer Center is a part of the monarch butterfly project.

Patrick introduced Fred Akers, who presented the project, and provided everyone with a handout that outlined all of the project's details. Rutgers is doing these types of studies in many townships

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (*cont'd*)

throughout the State of New Jersey to identify opportunities to reduce the impacts of storm water runoff using green infrastructure practices. There are 3 steps to the project, (a) an impervious cover assessment, (b) a reduction action plan and (c) a green infrastructure feasibility study. This project will be able to provide Monroe Township with a blueprint for retrofitting existing development with storm water management that will help improve the water quality in local waterways as well as reduce localized flooding in the community. A big concern for Monroe Township is to get more water into the ground, which Rutgers has the man power, technology and resources to help with this. Fred brought in posters of the proposed projects that Rutgers is doing in Winslow Twp. to show the Committee examples of what can be done in Monroe. Once the Impervious Cover Assessment is done in Monroe, Fred will come back and share what is found and get the OSAC's feedback on those results.

Cncl. Miller stated that a committee has been established that includes himself, Cncl. Marino and Cncl. Garbowski. This committee will be meeting to discuss the areas in the Township that we can protect and preserve. With all of the development that we are going to be seeing in the municipality in the near future and especially the projects that are starting to come to fruition, a plan needs to be put in place. He stated that Tom Bianco, the Mayor of Clayton has reached out to him regarding Scotland Run Park, which is in his jurisdiction. He wants to work with us to try and protect and preserve some of the areas that connect to the park. With regards to the bike path, the Township has been awarded money, so now we are in the process of trying to figure out where it should be extended and what areas it will go into. The general opinion of the committee is that it should tie into some of the areas where we have our parks. With regards to expanding Tuckahoe Road, the developers who want to develop that land are now coming to the Township saying that they want to preserve open space in that area; this will allow us the opportunity to talk about the potential expansion of Owens Park. Cncl. Miller strongly suggested that we come up with a comprehensive plan for all of the areas that we would like to acquire, because once construction starts, it will be too late.

Len questioned the developer's plan to now put townhouses on Tuckahoe Road instead of their original plan of single-family homes, asking if the Township can stop the plan of townhouses and enforce single-family dwellings? Cncl. Miller said that the developer cannot just change their plans from single-family to townhouses without proper Township approval.

With regards to the tot lots, Len would like to see our money spent on expanding the trails and buying the lands around existing parcels, instead of continuing to spend it on the operation of the tot lots as they are now. Cncl. Miller advised that Council is actively coming up with a plan to address the issue of the tot lots, to possibly tie them in with Parks and Rec to try and protect and preserve these areas and make it more manageable for the municipality. Cncl. Miller stated that he is the new Chairperson for the Tot Lot Committee and he would like a member, or members, of OSAC to be at those meetings. He will let everyone know when meetings are scheduled.

Len asked everyone to read-over the red-lined ordinance in reference to open space that was emailed, so it can be discussed at the next OSAC meeting. Len would like to be able to give the updated ordinance with our suggestions and changes to Cncl. Marino so he can present it at the next ordinance meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairperson Leonard Fritz asked for a motion to adjourn. Ty Cossaboon made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of July 2, 2018. The motion was seconded by Rob Toomer and unanimously all in favor by all members of the Committee in attendance. Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenn Harbison, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee meeting is Monday, August 6, 2018 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of July 2, 2018 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

Approved as submitted _____ Date _____

Approved as corrected _____ Date _____