

**MINUTES
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
December 3, 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: Leonard Fritz, Chuck McGlynn, Autumn Baidouri, Ryan Rebozo, Brent Salvadori and Robert Toomer.

Excused: Ty Cossaboon and Cncl. Cody Miller

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Len Fritz asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 1, 2018 meeting. Brent Salvadori made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of October 1, 2018. The motion was seconded by Robert Toomer and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance. Ryan Rebozo and Autumn Baidouri abstained from voting as they were not members nor present at the October 1, 2018 meeting.

Len Fritz asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2018 meeting. Ryan Rebozo made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of November 5, 2018. The motion was seconded by Autumn Baidouri and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Len Fritz made a motion to open the Public Portion. With no one from the public present and/or wishing to speak, Brent Salvadori made a motion to close the Public Portion. The motion was approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Len advised that the Commission will have it's Reorganizational Meeting on Monday, January 7, 2019, since the township is scheduled to have it's Reorganizational Meeting on Saturday, January 5, 2019. With regards to the OSAC 2019 Meeting Dates, all members reviewed the list of 2019 Meeting Dates. Len Fritz asked for a motion to approve the 2019 Meeting Dates. Brent Salvadori made a motion to approve the meeting dates. The motion was seconded by Ryan Rebozo and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

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

FUNDING REPORT

Len stated that he has received the annual funding report and there isn't a change from last year except for the interest accrued. The fund currently sits at about \$1,500,000.00 total but the 20% that is dedicated per the Ordinance for Open Space is about \$85,000.00.

Autumn has been working on researching available funding. She advised that in the Community Reinvestment Act it states that you have to spend a certain amount of money in low to moderate income areas, if you take a look at the tracks where they are it goes along with where Main Street is. There are opportunities to ask for funding through certain programs, for example, TD Bank, they partner with a foundation where they give money for conservation. Municipalities are eligible to apply for funding. She has reached out to the contact for TD Green Streets Program and is waiting to hear back. Autumn advised that a lot of corporations have moved their models of funding so that it lines up with the U.N. Sustainable Goals, the U.N. have a council that has been put together where they develop different goals for global sustainability. Len said that we have a Sustainable Monroe organization that is part of Sustainable New Jersey program with Patrick McDevitt as the chairperson. Len recommended that Autumn talk to Patrick and combine efforts. Len then talked about DVRPC having a strong interest in Monroe because we are in the next ring of development outside of Philadelphia, they are ready to help us with trails. The DVRPC has already been helping the county, every time the county repairs a road the DVRPC has been striping that road with a bike lane also, which adds to our trails within the municipality, that opens another door through the Bicycle Coalition. Len stated that the DVRPC has several different avenues that we can use with regards to funding, they are pretty well layered, very organized and very helpful. Autumn also talked about Horizon NJ having a large membership here in Monroe Township, there should be no reason if the grant application was created correctly that Horizon wouldn't be able to support it in some form. For Horizon to be able to put their name on something here in the community is great for member retention. They have an application coming up within the next year and that would be another opportunity for us to keep an eye on for funding.

ORDINANCE

Len advised that with regards to the Ordinance changes that was submitted to Council, there was not enough time to have their final reading and make it official before the end of the year. It has been tabled with Council until the new year. He has been in communication with the sitting council and they are willing to work with us and will make sure that the Ordinance changes we submitted get put to the top of the list for the new year. In the meantime, Len is working with the solicitor on adding to the fee section. The solicitor is looking at other municipalities to see what is out there and what is allowable by law to put in place of those features that we are recommending removing. As everyone recalls, we took out all of the requirements of any kind of park land, except for designated open space. Since we took out all of the tot lots, ballfields, etc. as the size of the development progresses, there should be some type of progression of fees to be able to be applied in lieu of. He doesn't want to necessarily use the words in lieu of, however there should be something added to help boost our open space and to help with the existing trails.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Brent is in full agreement with the recommendations that Len has submitted to the committee. Rob is still reviewing but he will reach out to Len before the next council meeting where it submitted to Council.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Len spoke in reference to member vacancies and Liaisons on the Committee.

Autumn asked with the new administration coming in, will the 20% dedicated to Open Space in the budget change. Len stated that the budget does not change, unless we use all of it or some other revenue comes in and kicks it higher. It is not so much a budget figure, rather it is what's available in the fund. In 2004 there was dedicated 2 cents on every hundred dollars to go towards open space funds, that is what started creating the balance, plus there was a long stretch of time prior where the developers could put in the improvements or pay the fee in lieu of and most would volunteer to pay the fee in lieu of, that is how fund increased to where it is now. There was some discussion among the members regarding the 20% in the budget and the current amount in the fund.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Autumn Baidouri made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of December 3, 2018. The motion was seconded by Brent Salvadori and unanimously all in favor by all members of the Committee in attendance. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenn Harbison, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee meeting is Monday, January 7, 2019 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of December 3, 2018 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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