

**MINUTES  
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
February 4, 2019**

The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee was called to order by Chairperson Leonard Fritz at 7:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: Autumn Baidouri, Ty Cossaboon, Leonard Fritz, Chuck McGlynn, Brent Salvadori, Cncl. Pat O'Reilly

Absent: Ryan Rebozo, Robert Toomer

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Len Fritz asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 3, 2018 and January 7, 2019 meetings. Brent Salvadori made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meetings of December 3, 2018 and January 7, 2019. The motion was seconded by Ty Cossaboon and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

**GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Brent Salvadori 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, Brent Salvadori made a motion to close the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Ty Cossaboon and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

**CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS**

Len showed the members in attendance the most recent copy of the Williamstown Sun newspaper where the Open Space Advisory Committee was featured on the front page. He said this was all thanks to Cncl. O'Reilly for mentioning the committee at the last council meeting.

Autumn said that she does not have any updates on funding at this time, because we are waiting on an updated Feasibility Study. Cncl. O'Reilly said since the last meeting, he has sat down with Business Administrator, Jill McCrea and Cncl. Joe Marino to talk about the Township obtaining a grant writer. He said that we are getting close to putting it out there for an RFI/RFP to obtain a grant writer for the Township. He feels by having a Grant Writer in the township, it will be a win for the Township and we can't lose money. Len said at one point Open Space was on Anjak and there is a lot of funding available through Anjak, but all applications for Open Space had to be run through the Environmental Commission. He said as changes are being made, he is excited to see the possibilities that will be available for Open Space with regards to Anjak moving forward.

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

Len said he and Cncl. O'Reilly have talked about Liaisons and they will be attending a meeting this week with the leaders of the Environmental Commission, Sustainable Monroe and Open Space to discuss it further. He said the meeting is going to allow more open lines of communication between the committees. He and Brent are on the Zoning Board and he asked if anyone had any ideas of other organizations that we should also be in communication with in the Township. Autumn asked if we had a liaison for the Board of Health, she feels there is a direct link between Board of Health and Open Space, as environment affects health. Cncl. O'Reilly and Len suggested that Autumn attend the next Board of Health meeting, to see what their mission is and if they also feel there is a direct link to Open Space. He said we can discuss her findings and the possibility of having a Board of Health Liaison at our next meeting. Len said he would like to also have a liaison from the Planning Board. Cncl. O'Reilly agreed, saying it is very important to have a liaison from Open Space on Planning Board, to be able to have a voice with the incoming planning applicants. Cncl. O'Reilly asked the secretary, Jenn to do some research and find out who created the liaison positions and where they are coming from. He also asked if the chair of Open Space would be allowed to be notified of all new planning board applications, in order to see if there is an open space element with the application and be able to communicate with the Planning Board regarding same.

Len stated this year the Open Space Committee really wants to focus on trails. He feels the first big push should be the trail around the Mary Mazza Duffy Park. He said that park was donated and the improvements that have been previously done have been through Township funding, however, he would like to see what if any grants or funding are available to extend the trail around the entire park. Cncl. O'Reilly talked about the upcoming dog park, he said they are hoping to break ground within the next 6 months. He said he would love to see about having a trail connect Owens Park to the Dog Park, possibly through an easement. A discussion followed among the members about the property, the owners and the possibility and options of connecting the two. Cncl. O'Reilly feels this connect should be a very close 2<sup>nd</sup> in our priority list of 2019 projects. He asked how much of a focus Open Space is going to put on connecting Wilson Lake to the bike trail. He said Wilson Lake is a county park and the bike trail is owned by Monroe and he believes it would incumbent upon the county to connect to our bike trail, at their expense. Len said yes it is county owned, however, the township has to initiate our want to connect to the county in order to get that started. He said Ken Atkinson has told him over the years that the county is willing to work with us, but we have to initiate it. Cncl. O'Reilly said that our new County Freeholder Liaison is Jim Lavendar. Len said Wilson Lake and Scotland Run Park and our bike trail would also make a nice connection.

Autumn asked if having the bike path cross over the pike and be able to connect to Camden County has been taken off of the goals list. Len said that it is not off the list, it is one of the things that they need to discuss in the future, and all of the options available to connect at some point. He said however, the connection to Camden County right now does not allow any public parking options. He said the Winslow Wildlife Management covers a lot of properties and it goes from our side all the way over into Camden County. He said in the future, something the committee needs to consider when we talk about these trails is access, parking, and the features to be able to accommodate people.

Brent said that is a pleasure to see the Open Space Committee finally moving forward and with the new Council in place, he sees progress. He said that Parks and Recreation had their reorganization meeting in January and they are also getting some new faces, with a new director in place as well. He said their next event is the Easter Egg Hunt and it will be at Owens Park.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Chairperson Leonard Fritz asked for a motion to adjourn. Autumn Baidouri made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of February 4, 2019. The motion was seconded by Ty Cossaboon and unanimously all in favor by all members of the Commission. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenn Harbison, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee meeting is Monday, March 4, 2019 at 7:00pm.

*These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Reorganization Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of February 4, 2019 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.*

Approved as submitted \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approved as corrected \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_