

MINUTES
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
April 1, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee was called to order by Chairperson Leonard Fritz at 7:06pm 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: Veronica Adepeju, Autumn Baidouri, Ty Cossaboon, Leonard Fritz, Jonathan Garbowski, Chuck McGlynn,

Absent: Ryan Rebozo, Brent Salvadori, Robert Toomer and Cncl. Pat O'Reilly

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Len Fritz asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2019 meetings. Jon Garbowski made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meetings of March 4, 2019. The motion was seconded by Ty Cossaboon and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Len welcomed, new member, Veronica Adepeju to the Committee. Introductions among the members followed.

- **Liaison Reports**

Planning Board - Jon Garbowski reported the Wawa on Route 322 and Tuckahoe Road is trying to subdivide part of their property and keep it as wetland. He said, regarding the Dump on Sicklerville Road, they are trying to move forward with clean up there and have been investigating the possibility of making that a solar field. He said, they are also looking at various other properties in the Township that are not currently being utilized for other possible solar fields as well.

Zoning Board – Len Fritz reported, currently there is nothing significant happening that relates to Open Space. He said, it has been a lot of small clean up items for existing businesses and houses.

- **Funding and Actions**

Autumn had nothing to report regarding funding. She reported, after following up with the Board of Health, she realized there was not the fit for a liaison with them, as it is not as health promotion like she originally thought.

- **Ideas For Trails New And Existing**

Len brought Veronica up to speed with the existing trails, particularly the bike train that runs down the railroad tracks and he talked about the new trails the Committee has been discussing. Autumn suggested, adding exercise spots/health components along the trails. Len suggested, adding scenic stops along the way also, and combining a rest stop with a scenic stop. He said, he feels parking and access facilities to the trails should be a priority when planning new trails and additions to the existing trails. He said, Washington Township is working on having a trail that comes down and will connect to Monroe. He said, the current trail that connects to Glassboro is going to interconnect with two other smaller trails to make a bigger puzzle that will actually go down into Cumberland County. He said, Washington Township's plan will give us the advantage of being able to go into Washington Township from our bike trail and into the Camden County trail system, which leads into Philadelphia. Autumn

asked, how the trails and additions will be advertised. Len advised, word of mouth is the biggest form of advertising, however as things are funded, those funding agencies will advertise on their websites which will connect to the County.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Jon talked about the farmland properties in Clayton that are for sale, asking if the Committee should follow up with the County regarding possible purchase for additional connection trails. Len said, money is scarce in the County for additional land purchase. He said, the Open Space Fund has a limited amount and once it is gone it is gone. Jon suggested the possibility of splitting the purchase with the County as to not entirely deplete the Open Space funds. Len said, the County and the State does not have any money to offer for land purchase. He said, there is funding out there, however, it is not for outright purchase but rather the funding is available to help improve land. Len said, regarding this property we would not be able to purchase it anyway since it is located in Clayton outside of our municipality and he does not see the benefit of purchasing it at this time, just to place additional bike trails on it.

Len stated, the County currently has a good program in place, when they are rehabbing and restriping the roads throughout Gloucester County they are adding bike lanes on both sides of the roads. A discussion followed among the members regarding the bike lanes and trails and how they can make sure all trails are categorized as both walking and bike trails.

Jon talked about a possible solution for the trails in the swampy marshy areas, he has researched some options since the last meeting. He said, up to a certain soil saturation point, you can use a sand base which will not stop drainage and then add a filter fabric ¾ inch stone on top. He said, he has found this works well as a hard base top surface which is good for both walking and biking. He said, it is also fairly easy maintenance as well.

Len said, he would really like the Committee’s focus right now to be on making the trail connection from our bike trail to Scotland Run Park. He then suggested the Committee’s short term goals should be on the pedestrian trails. He would also like to see about incorporating bicycle facilities and pedestrian facilities. A discussion followed regarding these possibilities.

Len advised the Committee that the Ordinance Changes are still in the works with the Ordinance Committee. He said, it is bigger and more involved than originally thought, as the Chapter that deals strictly deals with Open Space is reflected and referred to in many other Ordinances in the Township. He said, he is working with the Solicitor, and the Planner to ensure all of their recommendations are acceptable and legally allowed in order to preserve the open space in Monroe Township.

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 April 1, 2019. The motion was seconded by Ty Cossaboon and unanimously all in favor by all members of the Commission. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenn Harbison, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee meeting is Monday, May 6, 2019 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of April 1, 2019 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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