

**MINUTES
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
May 6, 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 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, Ty Cossaboon, Carolann Fox, Leonard Fritz, Brent Salvadori, Tracy Lavin and Cncl. Pat O'Reilly

Absent: Autumn Baidouri, Jonathan Garbowski, Chuck McGlynn, Ryan Rebozo,

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Len Fritz asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 1, 2019 meeting. Ty Cossaboon made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of April 1, 2019. The motion was seconded by Brent Salvadori and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

- **Welcome New Members**

Len welcomed, new members, Carolann Fox and Tracy Lavin to the Committee. Introductions among the members followed.

- **Approval by Council – Open Space Ordinance Changes**

Len advised, Council has approved the Open Space Ordinance recommendations that the Committee recommended at last week's Ordinance meeting and it is scheduled for first reading at next Monday's Regular Council meeting.

- **Funding and Actions**

Cncl. O'Reilly reported, Triad is going to be the Township's official Grant Writer. He said, Triad is ready and willing to help with whatever we need and are on the hunt for funding opportunities for us.

Len stated, in regards to funding, currently it is in a holding pattern as a lot of funding applications were due in April and the next round will not be due until the end of the year. He said, he is going to have Autumn create a list of criteria that the funding applications require, so we can get everything together when a funding opportunity comes our way. Cncl. O'Reilly said, approximately \$81,000 goes into the Open Space Fund every year which is not much, so that is why grant money is very important when looking into projects.

- **Liaison Reports**

Zoning Board – Len reported, currently there is nothing significant happening that relates to Open Space.

Parks & Recreation Commission – Brent reported the Easter Egg Hunt was a great event and over 10,000 eggs were gone in no time. He said, the Music Festival is scheduled for June 1st at Owen Parks and they expect it to be another great event. He mentioned, the Arts Festival had a nice turnout, even though it was really windy which caused a couple vendors to not set up.

- **Ideas For Trails New And Existing**

Cncl. O'Reilly updated the Committee, himself, Len and Cncl. Wolfe are in the process of scheduling a meeting with Eric Campo, the Gloucester County Business Administrator, to discuss the "loop opportunity" and Eric seems very interested. Len spoke about the proposed loop of trails that will run through private lands and Township properties that will connect all of them. Cncl. O'Reilly said, he is cautiously optimistic regarding his initial conversation with the County, where they were supportive in connecting the loops at Scotland Run Park. He is very happy with how everything is progressing and said it is much further along than he had anticipated it would be right now.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Veronica asked about the land that is located next to the Wawa on Route 322 and what it will be used for. Len advised, a new Super Wawa is going to be built across the street from the current Wawa. Cncl. O'Reilly said, the new Super Wawa is proposed to be the biggest Wawa built.

Cncl. O'Reilly said, regarding Whitehall Road, heading into Collings Lakes, Pinelands wants the Township to develop it and they are giving us a grant to bring water and sewer down the pike. He said, a thirty acre ATV Park has just been approved for that area as well. Cncl. O'Reilly said, the Township is in the process of revising the Comprehensive Management Plan. He said, the Comprehensive Management Plan will tie into the Master Plan and the update is long overdue. Brent said, he sees progress coming down the road, we cannot stop it, we just have to make the best decisions at the best times.

Cncl. O'Reilly spoke regarding the ROSI, saying the update is almost complete. He said, there are no changes that need to be made and it is ready to be recertified however, there are two properties, the Forest Hills Tot Lot and the Chelsea Farms Tot Lot, where the MUA desperately needs to put in new upgraded pump stations at those facilities. He said, the Township would like to give the MUA a piece of these properties, an easement to install the pump stations. We now have to go through Green Acres for approvals before we can recertify the ROSI. Len recommends, submitting and recertifying the ROSI as it stands currently without the changes to the Tot Lots, because the property transfers with the MUA will be happening during the year and we can always update next year.

Carolann asked what is going on with the American Training Center property. Cncl. O'Reilly said, the property is clean now and we are just waiting on the second sample to come back. He said, he has this property potentially slated as solar for now. He said, as a district, the Township, School Board and MUA, we need about eighty to one hundred acres for solar. He said, they do not want to place solar at every corner, they would rather build remote solar farms and the Training Center property would be ideal for that as it is forty acres by itself. He noted, the Township also owns the forty acres down the street from the Training Center which is another piece they are looking at for solar. Len said, if this property does not work for solar, the only value it would have for open / recreational space would be as passive space for wildlife and possibly nature trails.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

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

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 May 6, 2019. The motion was seconded by Carolann Fox and unanimously all in favor by all members of the Commission. Meeting adjourned at 7:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenn Harbison, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee meeting is Monday, June 3, 2019 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of May 6, 2019 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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