

**MINUTES  
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
SEPTEMBER 9, 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: Veronica Adepeju, Autumn Baidouri, Carolann Fox, Leonard Fritz, Jonathan Garbowski, Tracy Lavin, Chuck McGlynn, and Brent Salvadori

Absent: Ty Cossaboon, Ryan Rebozo and Cncl. Pat O'Reilly

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Len Fritz asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 5, 2019 meeting. Jonathan Garbowski made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of August 5, 2019. The motion was seconded by Carolann Fox and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

**CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS**

Len reported that the offer to purchase the Sykes Lane property has been accepted. Once the paperwork is complete, a Title Report will be obtained to ensure there are no issues with the property and an Environmental Release will be signed. Sustainable Monroe has been awarded a grant for a bike repair station which they would like to have installed on the Sykes Lane property

Len and Cncl. O'Reilly met with the County regarding support with the trails and they are supportive as long as the Township pays for the project.

Len spoke regarding the trail that would connect the bike trail to Scotland Run. He said that Paparone Builders has agreed to the trail and has offered to help with the construction of the trail.

Len mentioned that advertisements for bids have gone out for engineering companies to create the design of the bike trail to go around Duffy Park.

Len said that the DVRPC has also offered to help with the creation of the trails. They do not have funding until February but Len is hoping that by February, the committee will be ready to apply for funding.

- **Liaison Reports**

Sustainable Monroe – Len said, he has spoken with Patrick McDevitt about the upcoming events they have scheduled. There will be an Arts and Crafts/Green Fair scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup> that will take place at the Pfeiffer Community Center. They are planning on a Community Wildlife Friendly Habitat

Certification Program to be held sometime in October. Also, a Native American Drum and Story Telling Session to be held at the Garden where they will celebrate World Peace on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Environmental Protection Commission – Len said, after speaking with Chairman, Ryan Rebozo, they are working on the language for a native plant and tree clearing Ordinance and they will be looking toward the Open Space Advisory Committee for input.

Planning Board – John reported that they are in the process of creating a committee for the Master Plan and if he is chosen to serve on the committee, he will serve as the Open Space liaison.

SJ Land Trust – Chuck reported, they do not hold meetings throughout the summer and the next scheduled meeting will be at the end of September.

- **Social Media**

Autumn has volunteered to manage the committee's Social Media presence. She is going to create an Instagram page that can be linked to the Facebook page. A discussion followed among the members present regarding the type of content they would possibly like to see posted. Veronica offered to help Autumn with Social Media.

**OPEN DISCUSSION**

Autumn questioned if at Township sponsored events, like the Green Fair, is there representation of the Open Space Advisory Committee. Len said the only event that the committee has had a presence at is, National Night Out. He said, at the next event that the committee can be present at, he has pamphlets and a banner available that can be used for the table. He would like to utilize the next event to promote the proposed trails and try to gather a list of residents that may be interested in helping with the trails when the time comes and to be able to educate the residents on Open Space. He feels it would be a good idea for the Open Space Committee, Sustainable Monroe and the Environmental Protection Committee to share table space at future tabling events because the committees are all connected. Len suggested attending the town's Fall Festival in October as that will give the Committee time to put together information and handouts. Tracy mentioned that she has vast experience with tabling events and offered her assistance in setting up and preparing for any of the Committee's tabling events.

Autumn asked if the bike trails are maintained during the winter months. Len noted there is not any snow removal or maintenance done on the trails in the winter. He suggested, towards the beginning of next year creating a volunteer opportunity where volunteers along with the Committee get together and take care of the trails. Tracy said, regarding volunteer opportunities, the Committee should reach out to the different organizations and schools as there are a lot of people and students in need of community service hours.

**GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Brent Salvadori made a motion to open the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Autumn Baidouri and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance. With no one from the public present and/or wishing to speak, Jonathan Garbowski made a motion to close the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Autumn Baidouri 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. Autumn Baidouri made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of August 5, 2019. The motion was seconded by Brent Salvadori and unanimously all in favor by all members of the Committee in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenn Harbison, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee meeting is Monday, October 7, 2019.

*These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of September 9, 2019 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.*

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