

**MINUTES  
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
DECEMBER 2, 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, Brent Salvadori and Cncl. Pat O'Reilly

Absent: Ty Cossaboon, Chuck McGlynn, and Ryan Rebozo

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Autumn Baidouri made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of November 2, 2019. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Garbowski and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

**CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS**

- **Re-Organization Date and 2020 Schedule of Meeting Dates**

Len spoke regarding January 13, 2020 for the Open Space Advisory Committee Reorganization Meeting along with all of the other dates listed on the schedule provided. No changes needed to be made to the 2020 schedule of meeting dates. Carolann Fox made a motion to approve the 2020 Schedule of meeting dates. The motion was seconded by Autumn Baidouri and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

- **Funding and Actions**

Cncl. O'Reilly noted that there is nothing to report at this time with regards to Grant Writing Services. Autumn suggested scheduling a meeting after the Committee's Reorganization meeting in January to discuss the upcoming funding opportunities for next year. Len said, many of the funding opportunities are due between April and June and then again in October and November. Cncl. O'Reilly suggested that the committee members begin thinking about what funding opportunities that they would like to pursue and bring those ideas to the January 13, 2020 Reorganization Meeting to discuss.

Autumn asked if there was a sample budget listing the items and costs for the next phase of the Duffy Trail project. She said, if there is a line item budget, it will be easier to identify funding because companies are very specific in what they want to fund and want to see if there is risk associated with the funding. Len said, in his experience with government funding, some parts need to be specific and others do not need to be as specific. He said it is a little too early to be specific with the actual construction of the trail, because the design hasn't been completed, so we do not know what exactly we will be constructing yet.

- **Liaison Reports**

Zoning Board - Len reported, currently there is nothing significant happening that relates to Open Space except one project which was denied. Len explained the application and the reasons it was denied.

Parks and Recreation – Brent reported, the Tree Lighting will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 6pm at the Pfeiffer Community Center.

Planning Board – Jon reported that Morgan Landing came back and were a little more reasonable with their variances and they have significantly more open space than in their original plan. However, it is not public open space, it is basically deed restricting the properties and providing open space between the house and the buffer area.

- **Social Media**

Autumn had nothing significant to report at this time. She has shared two posts on the Committee’s Facebook page this month. She suggested creating a feature article to post about the acquisition of the Sykes Lane property and working with Anthony at the Williamstown Sun as well. Cncl. O’Reilly said, once the property’s paperwork is complete, he will work with Autumn and Anthony on the article.

- **Ideas For Trails New And Existing**

Len spoke regarding the trail in Washington Township that will be extending all the way down Fries Mill Road to connect with Scotland Run Park. This connection could potentially be Monroe Township’s tie in, with future trail projects.

Cncl. O’Reilly spoke regarding the prospective plans for the corner of Fries Mill Road and Route 322.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

There was a discussion among the members present regarding the junkyard on Morgan Road and the others within the Township.

Carolann asked, if developers are able to contribute to the schools when they come in to present their plans. Cncl. O’Reilly stated that by law they are no longer allowed to contribute in lieu of something. A discussion among the members present followed regarding the laws and contributions.

Tracy asked about the Township’s grant writing services. Cncl. O’Reilly explained the Township’s grant writing services process. Tracy said, she knows of someone that would be interested in doing a freelance type situation for grant writing services as well if needed. Autumn mentioned that her and Chuck had previously put together a plan, where his students at Rowan University could help write with grant writing, providing an opportunity to give back to community and helping the students learn how the grant writing process works. Len feels that the more help with obtaining grants, the better to help fund the committee’s upcoming projects.

Cncl. O’Reilly noted that the cost of designing the Duffy Park Trail has come in at \$30,000. This price does not include the construction designs, this is only for the design that is needed to present to the State for initial approvals which are not guaranteed. He explained, half of the proposed trail is in the wetlands along with some areas being in the Pinelands. Cncl. O’Reilly said, no matter what the Committee does, they will have to

also receive Pinelands approval. He suggested, to help lower the cost of the initial design, possibly redesigning where the trail is, taking it out of the wetlands area, moving it closer to the baseball fields and keeping it on the frontage out of the wetlands. Len said, by moving the trail, it would then chop up the property. He feels this trail is going to be a very expensive venture. A discussion followed regarding the placement of the trail and the costs for design and construction.

Autumn suggested that one of the items on the Committee’s January Reorganization Meeting Agenda be prioritizing the projects the Committee would like to accomplish and in what order, to which Len agreed.

Autumn talked about the newly acquired property on Sykes Lane. She asked about the bike repair station and what the Committee needed to do with regards of having it built and placed on the property. Cncl. O’Reilly explained that Sustainable Monroe has already received a grant to purchase the bike repair station. A discussion followed regarding the Committee’s ideas and plans for the property on Sykes Lane.

**GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Brent Salvadori made a motion to open the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Garbowski 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 Carolann Fox and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Autumn Baidouri made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of December 2, 2019. The motion was seconded by Tracy Lavin 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, January 13, 2020.

*These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of December 2, 2019 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.*

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