

**MINUTES
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
JANUARY13, 20120**

The Reorganization Meeting of the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee was called to order by the secretary, Jenn Harbison 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.

Jenn Harbison led the Commission in the salute to our flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Veronica Adepeju, Autumn Baidouri, Ty Cossaboon, Carolann Fox, Leonard Fritz, Tracy Lavin, Brent Salvadori and Cncl. Pat O'Reilly.

Absent: Jonathan Garbowski, Chuck McGlynn and Ryan Rebozo

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

Brent Salvadori made a motion to open the floor for nominations for the 2020 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Open Space Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Ty Cossaboon and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

Brent Salvadori nominated Len Fritz as Chairperson. The nomination was seconded by Ty Cossaboon and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance. No other nominations were made.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON NOMINATION OF LEONARD FRITZ AS 2020 CHAIRPERSON OF THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - ALL AYES

Leonard Fritz was appointed as 2020 Chairperson to the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee.

Brent Salvadori nominated Carolann Fox as Vice-Chairperson. The nomination was seconded by Ty Cossaboon and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance. No other nominations were made.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON NOMINATION OF CAROLANN FOX AS 2020 VICE - CHAIRPERSON OF THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - ALL AYES

Carolann Fox was appointed as 2020 Vice-Chairperson to the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee.

Carolann Fox made a motion to close the floor for nominations. The motion was seconded Brent Salvadori and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Autumn Baidouri 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, 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.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

- **Prioritize Projects for 2020**

Len feels that the Committee needs to continue working on the things that they already have in the works. He went over the projects currently on the Committee's plate. First being, the Sykes Lane parking lot and how the Committee wants to approach this project will depend on timing for certain items but as far as it getting accomplished, the basics at least will get accomplished within the year. Beyond the basics, how to "fancy it up", make it more usable and increase its value will depend on the Committee along with other organizations within the Township and the input of the community itself. Second, pursuing the other trails, for example, the trail that connects from the old rail line to Scotland Run Park which is basically "in the basket" just depends on time. Also, feelers have gone out regarding the engineering of the loop around the Mary Mazza Duffy Park, which can be re-reviewed and decided on by the Committee. This project will take a lot of time, with a lot of involvement from many different agencies for approvals and funding. Len feels all of these projects will be the stepping stones to the more ambitious ideas as time goes on, such as, expanding the current bike trail and eventually getting across the Black Horse Pike, which will prove to be the biggest hurdle for the Committee.

Cncl. O'Reilly suggested that if the Committee is going to look at possibly crossing the trails over the Black Horse Pike, they will need to look at where there is opportunity to acquire open space on the opposite side. A route needs to be found with ground opportunity on both sides to be able to get across. Carolann said, the Bike Trail, point zero starts at the Heritage on Blue Bell Road and most people want to start the trail at that point. Cncl. O'Reilly said, the Municipal Building is the closest piece of property to the starting point of the bike trail and the residents can park at Town Hall if they want to start at the beginning of the trail. He mentioned the fire path and the possibility of being able to obtain an adjacent easement. Len said that he was told in the past, that would not be possible due to legalities and insurance. Cncl. O'Reilly asked secretary, Jenn Harbison to contact the Tax Collector, Joanne Potopchuck and have her pull the tax records on the properties on both sides of the fire path that goes from Main Street and the Black Horse Pike and find out who owns each property. The Committee can then review the list and decide what they can do, because they are not looking to buy any properties. Ty Cossaboon mentioned, the MUA owns the easement behind Sabers which goes out to Winslow Road. Len said that easement would tap into all of the developments along Winslow Road along with New Brooklyn Road. The Black Horse Pike is still a major roadblock however, there are many Camden County Trails that can be connected to on that side of the Black Horse Pike. A discussion followed among the members present regarding the possible connections with the Camden County trails.

Len clarified that the Committee's focus should be to stay on course with what has already been started last year and get that well under way before taking on any new projects with the exception of researching and investigating possible projects. He would like to see the Committee working on the Sykes Lane parking lot and possibly holding a community day to clean up some of the trails to get the residents more involved with the trails.

Autumn asked if it had been decided last year by the Committee to look into the option of moving the Mary Mazza Duffy Trail closer to the parking lot, to which Len agreed. Len explained that it was basically because of the quote prices received, the restrictions that have been imposed on that site and the initial thought of trail placement. It had been discussed to look into moving the trail closer to the front of the park out of the wetlands.

Cncl. O'Reilly spoke regarding the Sykes Lane Parking Lot. He has spoken with Nick Mercado, the Director of Public Works and they are going to try to tear down the house on their down days/rainy days to help save costs.

Autumn wanted to confirm that there are three main projects for the Committee to be focusing on along with a five year plan for crossing the Black Horse Pike. The three projects in order of priority are, the Sykes Lane Parking Lot, the Mary Mazza Duffy Trail and the connection to Scotland Run to which Len agreed. Len said the connection to Scotland Run needs to be third on the list because that project is at the mercy of timing. Cncl. O'Reilly advised that per the State, the construction of the intersection at Route 322 and Fries Mill Road is supposed to be starting this year and once the intersection is complete it will open up the opportunity for the connection. Cncl. O'Reilly mentioned, the Dog Park as another project that should be added to the five plan. The Dog Park will begin construction in the upcoming months and might provide an opportunity for an additional connector trail with Owens Park.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Len discussed the Township's Attendance Policy with all members present.

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 Reorganization Meeting of January 13, 2020. The motion was seconded by Brent Salvadori and unanimously all in favor by all members of the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenn Harbison, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee meeting is Monday, February 3, 2020 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Reorganization Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of January 13, 2020 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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