

**MINUTES
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
AUGUST 3, 2020**

By way of electronic communication/live streaming, the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of the Township of Monroe was called to order at approximately 7:00 PM by Chairman, Leonard Fritz. Adequate notice of this meeting was given as required by the annual notice of meetings.

Chairperson Len Fritz led the Commission in the salute to our flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Autumn Baidouri, Alan Dodd, Carolann Fox, Leonard Fritz, Tracy Lavin, Brent Salvadori and Cncl. Pat O'Reilly

Absent: Veronica Adepeju, Ty Cossaboon, Jonathan Garbowski and Ryan Rebozo

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Carolann Fox made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of July 6, 2020. The motion was seconded by Autumn Baidouri and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

- **Liaison Reports**

Council - Cncl. O'Reilly reported that Council is currently going through some budget adjustments and are waiting to definitively hear back from the State on the shortfalls that the State will be handing out to the municipalities due to the COVID delay. Autumn questioned if this will affect the application that was sent to the State regarding the prospective new trail that will cross over the Black Horse Pike. Cncl. O'Reilly said, since the application was already submitted to the State for the preliminary review, there is no sense in stopping it, as the preliminary work has been done and the application has already been submitted for NJDOT preliminary approval of the bridge. If approval is received that approval will stay with the project for the life of the project.

Parks and Recreation – Brent reported that there is nothing new to report at this time.

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

- **Funding**

Autumn stated that currently, there is nothing to report with regards to funding

- **ROSI Update**

Len reported that the Township Engineer, Pennoni Associates, Inc. is working on the ROSI and Len will have more details to report at the next meeting.

- **Trails – New and Existing**
 - **Sykes Lane Parking Lot**

Cncl. O’Reilly spoke in reference to the prospective new trail that will cross over the Black Horse Pike. He said, a cursory review has been completed and everything is visually clean with the exception of the bridge area. He noted that if and when the project is able to move forward, the Committee will have some community outreach to do as there will be some resident concerns. Cncl. O’Reilly discussed the cost of the project, the budget and possible grant opportunities.

Len spoke regarding the Sykes Lane Parking Lot. He asked, the members present for their thoughts on what they would like to see done to the property besides it being used just as a parking lot. Cncl. O’Reilly mentioned that the construction on the Gloucester County sewer line is currently being done and he provided the County use of the Sykes Lane parking lot for storage of their equipment while they are working on the project. Cncl. O’Reilly suggested creating a committee including 3 members of the Open Space Advisory Committee, 1 member of the Environmental Protection Commission and 1 member from Sustainable Monroe to discuss and create a plan for the Sykes Lane Parking Lot. He noted that when Public Works and the MUA cleared the lot, they left a few small oak trees that were growing in the middle of the property. He said, the cleared property with the oak trees is set up to be a U shaped lot with a sitting area and the bike repair station right in the middle by the trees, with parking around the outside. He spoke with Mike Calvello from Public Works and his suggestion is to purchase crushed concrete and spread it throughout the property as a base instead of having the property paved. Cncl. O’Reilly recommends to continue to clean up the property, trim the trees and brush and spread a base throughout the property instead of paving it at this time. Autumn suggested, creating a memory lane along the property with donated memory benches. Tracy spoke about having an area with memory bricks that can be donated, similar to those at Citizen’s Bank Park. She has the information on the company she had used for a previous project and can forward it to the members for review. A discussion followed about the Committee’s vision for the property, the budget and donation/funding ideas.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Autumn Baidouri made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of August 3, 2020. The motion was seconded by Carolann Fox and unanimously all in favor by all members of the Commission in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenn Harbison, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee meeting is Monday, September 14, 2020 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Reorganization Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of August 3 2020 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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