

**MINUTES
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
OCTOBER 5, 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: Veronica Adepeju, Autumn Baidouri, Alan Dodd, Leonard Fritz, Tracy Lavin, and Cncl. Pat O'Reilly

Absent: Ty Cossaboon, Jonathan Garbowski, Ryan Rebozo, and Brent Salvadori

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Autumn Baidouri made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of August 3, 2020. The motion was seconded by Tracy Lavin and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Len explained that Carolann Fox resigned from the Commission due to becoming a member of Council, which leaves an open seat on the Open Space Advisory Commission. He suggested, waiting to fill her vacant Vice-Chairperson position until the Committee's Re-Organization Meeting in January 2021. A discussion followed about the current vacancies on the Commission.

- **Liaison Reports**

Zoning – Len reported, currently there is nothing significant happening that relates to Open Space. There is one application pending primary approval for a 55 and older restricted townhouse development to be located off of Fries Mill Road.

Planning – Cncl. O'Reilly reported that there is a potential upcoming application for an assisted living facility which will contain commercial frontage to be located next to Anthony & Cleopatra's on the Black Horse Pike. If and when this application is presented to the Planning Board, it may be of interest to Open Space.

Parks and Recreation – Alan reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission has held their last two meetings via Zoom where they have been discussing hosting a parade in December in hopes to raise the community's spirits, since they had to cancel the Halloween parade and Harvest Fest.

- **ROSI Update**

Len reported that he is currently working with the Township Engineer, Pennoni Associates, Inc. on all of the properties involved in the ROSI.

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

Cncl. O'Reilly spoke regarding the Sykes Lane Parking Lot. He noted, South State is still using the parking lot as a staging area but he is hopeful that they will clear their supplies out within the next two weeks. Len mentioned that after the Committee's Reorganization Meeting in January, he will create a Parking Lot Sub-Committee and he is hopeful that they will be able to jump right into the project. Autumn asked about the process that the Committee needs to follow to submit potential fundraising projects to Council. Cncl. O'Reilly spoke regarding the process and the pushback he has received with regards to the Parking Lot from the residents of Sykes Lane. A discussion ensued regarding the Sykes Lane Parking Lot and the residents' concerns.

Cncl. O'Reilly spoke regarding the potential new trail and bridge which will connect both sides of the Black Horse Pike. He stated that he participated in a Zoom meeting with the NJDOT regarding this project and the NJDOT is very interested in this project. However, at the far side of the Black Horse Pike, where Ace Hardware is located and where the bridge would connect is wetlands, so the Pinelands would need to be involved for approval also. Cncl. O'Reilly noted, as this project moves forward, the Committee will most likely receive pushback from the residents in that area as well. He said, in speaking with the Board of Education, they also expressed some concerns about the bike trail running alongside the Radix Elementary School playground. Cncl. O'Reilly advised, this project is estimated at approximately \$3 million. A discussion ensued regarding the connecting bridge project.

- **2021 Schedule, Attendance Renewals**

Secretary Jenn Harbison provided a draft list of meeting dates for 2021 for everyone's review, which will be brought forth for approval at the December Meeting. Len advised that Autumn, Alan and Ty are all up for renewal at the end of 2020 and explained the process for them to renew their terms and positions with Mayor and Council.

- **Recommendations to Council**

Len explained that in the past, the Committee has submitted their ideas for upcoming projects for the upcoming year to Council. The Committee did not submit their recommendations last year as they were still working on previous projects and they were getting the Sykes Lane project underway. Len would like the Committee to readdress the recommendations to Council for 2021. He asked Jenn to send everyone a copy of the last recommendations that was sent to Council for review.

- **General Discussion**

Autumn suggested possibly hosting a Zoom Meeting with the Mayor, Council, the Committee and members of the public to discuss what Open Space is, what their goals are and what are they working towards. Cncl. O'Reilly agreed with the idea, noting that many people do not know what the Open Space Committee is. All of the members agreed that hosting a Zoom is a great idea to help involve the public with what the Open Space Advisory Committee is doing. A discussion followed about ways to help the residents of Monroe Township get to know the Open Space Advisory Committee along with the other Boards and Commissions in the Township. Len suggested forming a sub-committee with Autumn, Tracy, Veronica and Alan to begin planning the Zoom meetings and community outreach on behalf of the Committee. Cncl. O'Reilly noted that he will talk about the Open Space Advisory Committee's openings during his Council Report at the October 26th Regular Council Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Tracy Lavin made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of October 5, 2020. The motion was seconded by Veronica Adepeju 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, November 2, 2020 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of October 5, 2020 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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