

**MINUTES
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
DECEMBER 7, 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

Tracy Lavin made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of October 5, 2020. The motion was seconded by Autumn Baidouri and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

- **Approval of 2021 Meeting Dates**

Tracy Lavin made a motion to approve the 2021 Schedule of meeting dates. The motion was seconded by Autumn Baidouri and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

- **Approval of 2021 Recommendations to Council**

Autumn Baidouri made a motion to approve the 2021 Recommendations to Council. The motion was seconded by Tracy Lavin and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

- **Liaison Reports**

Zoning – Len reported, currently there is nothing significant happening relating to Open Space. Len noted that as of the end of November, he has resigned from the Zoning Board.

Council – Cncl O'Reilly reported, there is nothing significant happening that relates to Open Space. He advised that at this time, Council is not comfortable with moving forward with the Committee's "Big Project", the connector-bridge and trail, due to the unknown financial impacts on the State due to Covid-19. The project will have to be put on hold for now. Cncl. O'Reilly mentioned, Scott Whyte from Lead the Way, created a Facebook Poll regarding the residents' interest in a trail around Duffy Park. He asked the Committee, if the trail around Duffy Park would be a project they would be interested in revisiting and working on in 2021. Cncl. O'Reilly suggested that the Committee shift their focus for 2021 to the Sykes Lane property and possibly the trail around Duffy Park. A discussion ensued regarding the trail around Duffy Park and the potential costs involved.

Parks and Recreation – Alan spoke regarding the upcoming Reverse Christmas Parade which is scheduled for Saturday, December 12th. The parade will provide a safe way to see Santa and the Christmas tree in front of the Pfeiffer Center, as people will travel in their decorated cars from the CVS parking lot and ending in front of the Pfeiffer Center.

- **ROSI Update**

Len noted that he has not seen any updates with regards to the ROSI update due to COVID, everything seems to have slowed down.

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

Cncl. O'Reilly brought Zoning Officer, Tara Park up to speed with the Sykes Lane Property and the Committee's intentions with the property. Ms. Park suggested that the Committee provide a courtesy presentation to the Planning Board and have one of the Board Engineers review the plans. She noted, Zoning would not require a variance for a Township owned property. Len will communicate with the Committee members along with members from the Environmental Protection Commission and Sustainable Monroe to schedule a meeting to go over the plans for the property to present to the Planning Board.

Autumn asked if there is a natural piece of land within the Township that the Committee could use to dedicate to possible science experiments for the children of the community. Cncl. O'Reilly noted, there is an abandoned green acres park, "Wagner Field", which is located on the Black Horse Pike before Whitehall Road which is open to the public. He also noted that the wetlands in the back of Duffy Field, which are undevelopable would also make a great place for possible science experiments.

- **General Discussion**

Autumn mentioned that she is going to wait to schedule the Zoom with the Mayor that she spoke about during the last meeting until after the Committee's Reorganization Meeting, maybe sometime in February.

Autumn expressed how much she enjoys serving on the Open Space Advisory Committee and is looking forward to serving again next year.

Len said, the Committee has had a great year and he is looking forward to next year and seeing what else they are able to get accomplished.

Veronica asked, how she can be relevant next year, stating that she feels like she has learned more than she has contributed. Autumn suggested possibly being the voice for members of the community who are not part of the Committee. Cncl. O'Reilly suggested that Autumn and Veronica take charge of the Committee's fundraising for 2021. A discussion ensued regarding fundraising opportunities, ideas and the deadlines for applications.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Tracy Lavin made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of December 7, 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, January 11, 2021 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of December 7, 2020 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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