

**MINUTES
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
JUNE 7, 2021**

The Meeting of the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee was called to order by the Chairman, Len Fritz at 7:05pm. Adequate notice of this meeting was given as required by the annual notice of meetings.

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Veronica Adepeju, Autumn Baidouri, Alan Dodd, Leonard Fritz, Jeffrey Graziano, Brent Salvadori, and Cncl. Carolann Fox

Absent: Jonathan Garbowski, Tracy Lavin, and Tushar Patel

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jeff Graziano made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of May 3, 2021. The motion was seconded by Autumn Baidouri and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

- **Liaison Reports**

Parks & Recreation – Brent reported that the Parks & Recreation Commission will be holding the annual July 4th Fireworks at 9pm on the 4th of July.

Alan reported, the Parks & Recreation Commission has been discussing what events they can host throughout the remainder of this year. They have created a Sub-Committee to discuss how to maybe go bigger with the Halloween Parade/Autumn Festival.

- **Sub Committee Report**

Autumn reported, there is nothing new to report at this time.

- **Sykes Lane Lot**

Len advised, he met with Cncl. Pres. O'Reilly, Cncl. Fox, Patrick McDevitt from Sustainable Monroe and a few members from the Environmental Protection Commission regarding the Sykes Lane property. Council has recognized that the Open Space Advisory Committee will take the lead on this project and will work together with Sustainable Monroe and the Environmental Protection Commission to create a game plan for the property. Len noted, they would like to see something in the works and underway by the end of this year. He asked everyone to forward their input, ideas, and feedback for the property to him prior to the next meeting so that those ideas can be shared with the other Committees involved. Autumn offered to create a shared google doc that everyone can access to store all of the ideas. Len advised, since the property is Township property, the maintenance will be taken care of by the Township. Len spoke regarding possible signage for the property, noting he does not believe signage will be needed as the other Township parks do not have signs advertising the parks. A discussion followed regarding various ideas for the property such as signage, bathrooms, bird feeders, bike racks, and bike repair station. Cncl. Fox suggested to look at the ideas as different phases, noting maybe a crushed stone parking lot and the bike repair station being part of Phase I. Jeff suggested polling the public to receive feedback on what they may like to see on the property and the bike

path. A discussion followed regarding what each phase will entail. Len shared his vision for the property, noting he would like to see a parking lot which provides access to the bike trail and it be a presentable property. Cncl. Fox suggested that the members keep their eyes open for possible help with the funding for the various projects for the property and possible donations. Len spoke regarding the size of the property and the amount of materials needed for the parking lot. Autumn spoke regarding the rising costs of construction materials. Jeff spoke in reference to the Born Learning Trails, as a way of potentially acquiring donations for the property's projects. Brent mentioned, the vandalism that he deals with at the various Township parks and the possibility of it happening at the Sykes Lane property in the future.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Autumn spoke regarding the other possible projects that the Committee has previously discussed, in particular Wagner Field. Cncl. Fox advised, the old rumors surrounding Wagner Field have been cleared and are a non-issue. Wagner Field is usable land and it is her understanding that Wagner Field can be used for different events. Brent noted, a cleanup is needed at Wagner Field to help make it presentable for use. Autumn said Wagner Field is a great opportunity for the Committee to have a parallel project with the Sykes Lane property and promote open space throughout the Township. Moving forward, these projects will help educate the public on what open space is. Autumn suggested maybe scheduling a special meeting at Wagner Field.

Jeff reported, he reached out to the local Civil War chapter to schedule a re-enactment in the future. He explained what the chapter provides and what they would need in terms of supplies and donation for the re-enactment.

Veronica stated, she will be relocating to Florida in the very near future and will have to resign from her position on the committee.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Autumn Baidouri made a motion to open the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Jeff Graziano and unanimously approved by all members of the Commission in attendance. With no one wishing to speak and no public comment received, Jeff Graziano made a motion to close the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Brent Salvadori and unanimously approved by all members of Commission in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairperson Leonard Fritz asked for a motion to adjourn. Jeff Graziano made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of June 7, 2021. 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, July 12, 2021 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of June 7, 2021 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.