

**MINUTES
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
JULY 12, 2021**

The Meeting of the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee was called to order by the Chairman, Len Fritz at 7:07pm. 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, Tracy Lavin, Tushar Patel

Absent: Jonathan Garbowski, Brent Salvadori and Cncl. Carolann Fox

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Autumn Baidouri made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of June 7, 2021. The motion was seconded by Jeffrey Graziano and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

- **Liaison Reports**

Parks & Recreation – Alan reported that at the last Parks & Recreation Committee meeting they discussed revamping the Harvest Festival to have a day of rides, food trucks, etc.at the Church Street fields and hold the Halloween Parade later that evening. A sub-committee was created to discuss and plan the revamped Harvest Festival. Regarding the Township’s Annual Christmas event, it looks like they may schedule another “drive-by” winter wonderland type event similar to what they did this past Christmas.

- **Sub Committee Report**

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

- **Sykes Lane Lot**

Autumn stated, she has not yet created the Google Document to gather everyone’s ideas for the Sykes Lane Property that was discussed at the last meeting, to be able to share with the other Township Committees. Alan offered to help create the Google Document.

Len reminded the members present that this project is going to be done in phases, so what does not get done this year will move to next year’s phase and so on. He asked the members if they had any other ideas for the property that have not already been discussed. Len noted, one of the things he would like added to the future phases of the project is to have things done along the trail, like points of interest, etc.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Len spoke regarding having the next Committee Meeting in-person rather than on Zoom, to which everyone agreed. Secretary, Jenn Harbison said, she can set up a Zoom link if needed for those members who may be away and still want to participate in the meeting.

Autumn stated, she would like to organize a clean-up at Wagner Field. She believes, this will be a good way for the Committee to get people interested in what the Open Space Advisory Committee is and potentially fill the current vacancies with new members. Len said, he will propose this idea to Cncl. Fox and Cncl. O’Reilly for Council approval. He spoke about what he believes the process may be to host a cleanup. Jenn stated that Jackie Wallace in the Office of Emergency Management may be able to help guide the Committee on scheduling the cleanup, as she was the one who scheduled cleanups for various groups throughout the town prior to COVID. Len suggested involving Sustainable Monroe and the Environmental Protection Commission in the cleanup, to which everyone agreed. Autumn suggested making the cleanup a community event hosted by the Open Space Advisory Committee. Alan suggested making it a larger event by collaborating with the Parks and Recreation Committee, Environmental Protection, Sustainable Monroe and maybe Monroe Lead the Way among others. He said, Open Space can initiate the cleanup, but he feels it will be really powerful to bring all of the town’s Commissions and Committees together. Autumn agreed with making the cleanup a collaborated community event, however she stated that she feels it is important for the community to know what Open Space is and she does not want that to get lost in a large-scale event. Tushar mentioned a successful cleanup that his development just hosted and completed. A discussion followed regarding the cleanup event and what hosting the event would involve.

Autumn said, she feels like the Committee’s momentum is building back up again, given the past year not being able to do much because of COVID. Alan spoke regarding what the Committee has done and suggested maybe creating smaller goals and objectives, to which Len advised, there are no small goals in Open Space. Autumn explained that the Committee is an Advisory Committee and the process involved with having the goals and objectives approved prior to them being set into motion.

Autumn spoke in reference to the current vacancies on the Committee, noting the need to try and fill them. A discussion followed regarding filling the vacancies on the Committee.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Jeffrey Graziano made a motion to open the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Autumn Baidouri and unanimously approved by all members of the Commission in attendance. With no one wishing to speak and no public comment received, Tushar Patel made a motion to close the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Veronica Adepeju 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. Autumn Baidouri made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of July 12, 2021. The motion was seconded by Jeffrey Graziano 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, August 2, 2021 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of July 12, 2021 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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