

**MINUTES  
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
FEBRUARY 7, 2022**

The meeting of the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee was called to order by the secretary, Jenn Harbison at 7:00pm. Adequate notice of this meeting was given as required by the annual notice of meetings.

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

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Autumn Baidouri, Anthony Bundi, Alan Dodd, Leonard Fritz, Mark Kozachyn, Tushar Patel, Brent Salvadori and Cncl. Patrick O'Reilly

Absent: Tracy Lavin

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Anthony Bundi made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Open Space Advisory Committee Reorganization Meeting of January 10, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mark Kozachyn and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

**CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS**

- **Liaison Reports**

**Council** – Cncl. O'Reilly stated that there is nothing new to report at this time. Cncl. O'Reilly suggested that the Committee begin doing a “deep dive” into the properties that have been approved but not yet built within the Township to find out what the open space element, as part of the approvals, look like. Len said that he will reach out to Ninette Orbaczewski, Administrative Clerk to the Monroe Township Planning Board, to obtain a list of approved projects.

**Parks & Recreation** – Alan reported, the Parks & Recreation Commission has scheduled dates for their upcoming events this year. The annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm. He invited everyone to attend the Commission's next meeting which is scheduled for this Wednesday via Zoom.

**Planning Board** – Cncl. O'Reilly noted that there is nothing new to report at this time concerning Open Space. He noted, the Lidl was approved two weeks ago. He mentioned, there is a potential cannabis grow facility to be located on the Black Horse Pike, however, it has not yet been presented to the Planning Board.

- **Sub Committee Report/Social Media**

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

- **Sykes Lane Lot**

Len advised, the Committee’s presentation regarding the Sykes Lane lot has been presented to the Planning Board and he has received pricing from the Township with regards to the paving of the ADA space as well as the path to connect the lot to the bike trail. Cncl. O’Reilly believes, as Chairman of Open Space that Len will need to come before Council to present the project and receive approval to have the funds designated and allocated, but he will follow up on said process and report back to Len. He suggested that Len reach out to the Director of Public Works, Nicholas Mercado in order to get the Sykes Lane project on their calendar. Cncl. O’Reilly spoke regarding the Open Space Advisory Committee’s joint initiative with Sustainable Monroe and the Environmental Protection Commission, noting that Sustainable Monroe has parted ways with the Township. Cncl. O’Reilly and Len Fritz brought Mark up to speed on the Sykes Lane property.

- **Trails – New and Existing**
  - **Duffy Fields Trail**

Len spoke regarding the trail around Duffy Fields which the Committee had previously talked about last year, noting since the Sykes Lane project is beginning to move along, he would like to start working on the trail around Duffy Fields. Len asked for ideas from the members on what they would like to see done with the trail as opposed to just creating a loop around the fields. He noted, he will “free sketch” where the trail would be placed around the fields and distribute that to the members prior to next month’s meeting, so that it can be a talking point at the next meeting.

Len noted, he had Jenn distribute information regarding funding opportunities with the DVRPC's TCDI grant program prior to tonight’s meeting. Cncl. O’Reilly spoke regarding the walking bridge which would connect both sides of the town to the bike path, and explained the project and where it was left off two years ago, at the start of the pandemic. A discussion followed regarding the walking bridge project.

## **GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

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

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

Autumn spoke regarding the All Trails app, noting that Monroe Township is not represented on the app. She noted, she would like to see Monroe Township more included on the app, to make the town look more attractive to the hiking community. A discussion followed regarding the app and the trails listed.

Autumn asked about Wagner Field, asking if there was any update on getting it back up to some form of capacity of recreation. Cncl. O’Reilly stated that Wagner Field near the property lines is also Green Acres property, so nothing can be done with the fields without involving the State DEP. He noted, there has been a lot of commercial interest on the adjacent three properties to the field located on Malaga Road, but none of that has moved forward. A discussion followed regarding the various opportunities at Wagner Field.

Tushar asked if the trail that runs across Fries Mill Road is part of the Township or the County, to which Len advised it is part of the County. Len spoke in reference to the trail located along Fries Mill Road and the various towns it connects.

Autumn questioned what was happening on Route 322 and Fries Mill Road in front of the Hunter Woods Development, to which Cncl. O’Reilly said they are repaving the side entrance into Hunter Woods. He explained, the side entrance to the intersection is commercial frontage and the pit area is set to become a lake with a walking trail that will connect to the bike trail with commercial along Route 322. The builders have their approvals, but they are not going to break ground until the County widens the intersection.

Mark noted, after review of the DVRPC information, he found that there are no opportunities for funding until 2024. Len agreed, however, he suggested that the Committee should still submit an application in order to have it be seen and to receive feedback for the next opportunity. A discussion followed regarding various grant opportunities and the grant writing and submitting process within the Township.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Chairperson Leonard Fritz asked for a motion to adjourn. Alan Dodd made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of February 7, 2022. The motion was seconded by Tushar Patel and unanimously all in favor by all members of the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenn Harbison, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee meeting is Monday, March 7, 2022 at 7:00pm.

***These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of February 7, 2022 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.***

Approved as submitted \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved as corrected \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_