

**MINUTES
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
DECEMBER 5, 2022**

The meeting of the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee was called to order by the Chairman, Len Fritz 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: Leonard Fritz, Mark Kozachyn, Tracy Lavin, Tushar Patel and Cncl. Patrick O'Reilly

Absent: Autumn Baidouri, Anthony Bundi, Brent Salvadori and Cncl. Patrick O'Reilly

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mark Kozachyn made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of November 14, 2022. The motion was seconded by Tracy Lavin and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

- **Approval of 2023 Meeting Dates**

Tracy Lavin made a motion to approve the 2023 Schedule of meeting dates. The motion was seconded by Tushar Patel and approved by all members of the Committee in attendance.

- **Approval of 2023 Recommendations to Council**

Len advised that Mark has made some additions to the 2023 Recommendations which are listed in Red and were emailed to everyone earlier today for review and approval. Mark spoke regarding the additions he made to the Recommendations, noting that he believes with all of the new developments that have come in during just this past year, if the Committee and the Township does not do something to try and preserve the open space, there will not be any open space left. Cncl. O'Reilly agreed with Mark's assessment, however, he stated the issue for the Committee is that they will never be able to afford to purchase all of the open space. A discussion followed regarding the open space located within the town and if it can be preserved and how. Len suggested, tabling approving the 2023 Recommendations to Council at this time, in order to allow himself and Mark to work on the wording of the recommendations and allow for further discussion at the next scheduled meeting in January.

- **Connector Trails**

Cncl. O'Reilly spoke regarding the connector trail piece at the Scotland Run Expansion, noting it can potentially be a spring project for the Committee.

- **Sykes Lane Lot**

Len said, he is waiting to hear back from another fence company with prices and will report back once he has the estimate. Len spoke regarding what can be done to the patches of green area that surround the connector piece from the parking lot to the bike trail. Tracy asked for the status of the bike repair station.

Jenn offered to reach out to Melissa, who used to serve on Sustainable Monroe to ask about its' location. Cncl. O'Reilly noted, when the Committee is ready, the MMUA has offered to install a water fountain at the property.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mark Kozachyn made a motion to open the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Tracy Lavin and unanimously approved by all members of the Commission in attendance. With no one wishing to speak and no public comment received, Mark Kozachyn made a motion to close the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Tushar Patel and unanimously approved by all members of Commission in attendance.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Cncl. O'Reilly spoke in reference to the proposed trail around Duffy Park, noting his concern whenever the trail is designed and installed, is that it has to be flush with the grass grade, to which Len agreed. He mentioned the building that is currently on the property and the past plans for the building, suggesting that the Committee should have some involvement with the decisions made on the building, as it tied to the parks and open space. A discussion followed regarding the proposed trail to be located at Duffy Park.

Len said, he would like to have a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Sykes Lane Lot in the spring, to which Cncl. O'Reilly agreed it should be scheduled in the spring once the fence is installed. Len spoke regarding having wildflowers planted at the lot, suggesting maybe having one of the school organizations or the Scouts plant the flowers. Cncl. O'Reilly expressed his concerns with the possible vandalism that can take place at the lot, noting he does not want to see anyone's hard work get destroyed. Len said, the lot may need to be expanded in the future, which should not be a problem because of the way he designed it originally.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairperson Leonard Fritz asked for a motion to adjourn. Tracy Lavin made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of December 5, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mark Kozachyn 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 9, 2023 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of December 5, 2022 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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