

**MINUTES
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
APRIL 3, 2023**

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: Anthony Bundi, Alan Dodd, Crystal Fox, Leonard Fritz, Mark Kozachyn, Tracy Lavin, Tushar Patel, Marjorie Sherrard and Cncl. Chelsea Valcourt

Guest: Michael Silvestro

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Anthony Bundi made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of March 6, 2023. The motion was seconded by Tracy Lavin and approved by all members of the Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

- Liaison Reports

Council – Cncl. Chelsea Valcourt did not have anything new to report at this time.

Parks & Rec – Alan reported that he has spoken with the Parks & Recreation Commission regarding the Open Space Advisory Committee reserving and hosting a table at any of the upcoming Parks & Recs sponsored events, to which they were in agreeance, noting a registration form is required to be completed and turned in to reserve the space. Alan reported the annual Easter Egg Hunt took place yesterday, Sunday, April 3rd and it was very successful. The next event for the Parks & Recreation Commission will be the Music Festival and that will be held on Saturday, June 3rd. Alan asked if the Open Space Advisory Committee would be interested in having a table at the Music Festival, to which Len said he would like to see if any other Boards/Commissions were going to host a table. Jenn stated that the Environmental Protection Commission were thinking about hosting a table along with possibly Clean Communities or maybe the Open Space Advisory Committee, in order to combine ventures/forces. Marjorie asked what is required of the Committee to host a table at the event, to which Tracy explained. Len stated that he previously had 5X7 cards made with Open Space information that he has handed out at previous events, noting he will bring them to the next meeting for the members to see. A discussion followed regarding what would be involved in hosting the table at the Music Festival, ways to entice the public to visit the table and ways to engage with the public to provide education and information about Open Space.

Len introduced a member of the public Michael Silvestro, who is interested in possibly joining the Committee, to the members.

Environmental – Anthony noted, he was not in attendance at the last Environmental Protection Commission meeting, however the last thing they spoke about was about helping with the informational signage along the bike trail.

- Sykes Lane Lot

Len spoke in reference to planting wildflowers at the property, noting at this time, it is a matter of locating a source to supply the wildflowers and/or the seeds. He suggested maybe reaching out to some of the local nurseries to see if they would be willing to donate the wildflowers and/or seeds. Len suggested when deciding on the wildflowers, that the Committee needs to make sure that the flowers are indigenous to the area. Michael Silvestro noted, an organization that he works with in North Jersey hosts various seed swaps and he will reach out to them to see what plants would be best for planting. Len brought Michael up to speed on the Sykes Lane property. A discussion followed regarding contacting the local nurseries to acquire possible donations or purchase the seeds/plants and advertising for the nursery on the informational signage. Alan and Marjorie offered to compile a list of the local nurseries to contact and gather the information.

- Connector Trails

Len advised there is nothing new to report since last month’s meeting.

- Existing and New Topics for Discussion

Len stated that during the Spring Tour Around Town, he would like to focus some of the conversation on the Mary Mazza Duffy Park Trail that has been discussed in the past.

Mark asked if Len has presented the Committee’s recommendations and goals to Council. Len advised that he provided a summary to Council, which they accepted. Marjorie asked if Council ever comes to the Committee looking for them to take action on an item, to which Len explained the Committee is simply an advisory committee who provides opinions and options to Council for them to decide to act upon.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Anthony Bundi made a motion to open the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Crystal Fox and unanimously approved by all members of the Commission. 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 Tracy Lavin and unanimously approved by all members of Commission.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Music Festival – Alan noted, the Committee only has one (1) more meeting before the Music Festival in June. A discussion ensued regarding what hosting a table entails and ways to engage with the public at the event. Marjorie asked if there is a budget for the Committee to acquire a banner, to which Len advised, the Committee already has a banner that can be used at the event. Alan said that he has two (2) tables that can be used at the event but he may not be at the event. Mark said he has tables and will bring them to the event. Len spoke regarding the items he has from past events that he will bring to be used at the table.

Tour Around Town – Tracy asked when last year’s tour was held. Jenn advised it was held on September 10, 2022. Len stated, the Spring Tour Around Town is scheduled for Saturday, April 22nd. He noted that he was going to create a list of places to visit on the tour, however since he created the list for the last few tours, he asked everyone where they want to visit on this year’s tour. Alan said the previous tour locations are still relevant and he suggested creating this year’s tour around those locations. Len spoke regarding the various locations throughout the town that can be visited and a discussion followed regarding same. Len advised the Tour will begin at the Mary Mazza Duffy Park beginning at 9:00am.

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 April 3, 2023. The motion was seconded by Crystal Fox and unanimously all in favor by all members of the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Harbison, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee meeting is Monday, May 1, 2023 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Seniors Commission Meeting of April 3, 2023 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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