

**MINUTES
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
NOVEMBER 13, 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

Absent: Marjorie Sherrard, Michael Silvestro, and Cncl. Chelsea Valcourt

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

- **Liaison Reports**

Parks & Recreation – Alan spoke regarding the Fall Festival and Halloween Parade, which were both very successful events. He encouraged everyone, if they are interested to volunteer with any of the events because they are always looking for volunteers to help with the events. The annual Tree Lighting Event is scheduled for Saturday, December 2nd at the Pfeiffer Community Center.

- **2023 Member Expirations**

Jenn advised that she is waiting to hear back from Alan and Tushar as to whether or not they would like to be considered for renewal.

- **Sykes Lane Lot**

Mark has purchased the seeds to plant at the Sykes Lane property. He spoke in reference to the very specific instructions that need to be followed on when to plant the seeds in the fall. He asked if anyone was available to meet at the Sykes Lane property to plant the seeds, this coming Saturday, November 18th. A discussion followed regarding organizing everyone to plant and the planting of the seeds at the Sykes Lane property.

- **Connector Trails**

Len suggested waiting until the beginning of the new year when the new funding rounds start again. He said, that Gloucester County is taking on a big project next year by completing the unfinished connector trails. He is hopeful that the Committee will be able to join in on pieces of this project with some of their ideas. The State of Jersey received approximately \$15 million for land preservation which is getting divided among the counties in the state to utilize.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mark mentioned the piece of land located off of Clayton Road that is for sale, noting it would be a great location to build a park similar to the one in Washington Township. Len noted, a piece of property that Anthony had brought to the attention of Council located on the South Black Horse Pike. Anthony explained the property is along the Black Horse Pike behind the Trio Tavern, noting the NJDEP currently owns the property but has no interest in it and asked if the Township and/or the County would have any interest in it. A discussion followed regarding the properties along with other properties that might be able to be obtained and used for additional open space projects within the township and the open space properties that are already owned by the township.

Len spoke regarding the yearly recommendations to Council and asked Jenn to send last years' recommendation out to everyone to review prior to the next scheduled meeting on December 4th.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Crystal Fox 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 Anthony Bundy 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. Alan Dodd made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of November 13, 2023. The motion was seconded by Crystal Fox and unanimously all in favor by all members of the Commission in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Harbison, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Open Space Advisory Committee meeting is Monday, December 4, 2023 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting of November 13, 2023 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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