

**BIRMINGHAM TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY
RECREATION, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE (RPOS)**

December 16, 2009

Vice-Chairman Greg Kurey called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. in the Township Building. The following were in attendance:

Greg Kurey	Vice-Chairman, RPOS Committee
Dan Hill	Member, RPOS Committee
Jeffrey Corrigan	Member, RPOS Committee
Jay Monteith	Member, RPOS Committee
John Conklin	Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

Absent from the meeting was Chairman Michael Langer and Members Mark Beauchamp and Curt Staropoli.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes for the September 16, 2009 RPOS meeting were approved, as written; all in favor.

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

Approval of the October 21, 2009 minutes was tabled until the January RPOS meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes for the November 18, 2009 RPOS meeting were approved, as written; all in favor.

BILLS

There were no bills to review at tonight's meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Police Chief Tom Nelling will remove the branch that is lying on the Birmingham Hill trail.

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE PROJECT

Vice-Chairman Kurey opened the discussion by stating that the development, implementation, maintenance and oversight of parks within the Township is a core component of the RPOS charter and therefore, RPOS will continue to maintain its leadership and management roles on the interpretive signage project for both Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill. He added that, as always, RPOS members would welcome the opportunity to work cooperatively and collaboratively with other Township entities and all stakeholders on the signage project, including but not limited to the Historic Commission, the Historical and Architectural Review Board, the Planning Commission, Township Administration, Brandywine Conservancy and all interested residents. Vice-Chairman Kurey indicated that communication among the interested parties will be critical for the success of the project and the avoidance of duplication of effort. Vice-Chairman Kurey recommended the formation of a sub-committee of the RPOS to reach out to all interested parties. Following the completion of that Township-wide

collaboration, RPOS shall present the final recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for their advice, recommendations and ultimate approval.

Mr. Conklin suggested that RPOS and the Historic Commission consider forming a joint task force to move ahead on the interpretive signage project. Given the background of the members of both committees, he believes there is a great deal of collective knowledge that would be helpful in proceeding with the various aspects of the project. Mr. Conklin also added that the Supervisors would be happy to give guidance whenever needed.

Vice-Chairman Kurey indicated that RPOS is looking forward to meeting with members of the Historic Commission to gather their ideas, insights and suggestions for the historical content of the signs – as well as to explain RPOS' overall vision for the park and signs. Mr. Hill said he will contact Historic Commission Member Lloyd Roach to tell him of RPOS' interest in forming a working committee.

BIRMINGHAM HILL UPDATE

Vice-Chairman Kurey announced that visitors to Birmingham Hill are now parking their cars in the intended spaces and that lines for the spaces may be unnecessary.

SANDY HOLLOW UPDATE

Vice-Chairman Kurey said there are three high school students who are interested in completing community service hours by cleaning up trash and other deposits along the trail at Sandy Hollow. The students will walk the trail once a month and will receive a letter from the Township verifying their community service hours. Vice-Chairman Kurey said he will accompany the students during the clean-up activities. Mr. Hill made a motion for Vice-Chairman Kurey to contact the three students so that they may begin the clean-up activities at Sandy Hollow. Mr. Corrigan seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice-Chairman Kurey distributed an update on the proposed trail plans of the Brandywine Conservancy. RPOS has formed a trails subcommittee to focus on new trail planning efforts in Birmingham Township. The subcommittee is assisted by Sheila Fleming from the Conservancy's Environmental Management Center. The trail planning project fits into a broader trail planning effort that is underway by the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force. With assistance from the Chester County Planning Commission, the Task Force is in the early stages of planning a "Battle Path Trail" that will provide a hiking route between the Brandywine Battlefield State Historic Site and Sandy Hollow. The trail, an informal footpath, could also link to the Brandywine River Museum and the Chadds Ford Historical Society trails. Currently, six land owners in Birmingham Township have voluntarily donated trail easements for public use along Meetinghouse Road and Brinton Run creek.

Vice-Chairman Kurey welcomed and introduced Township Resident Rob Main who is interested in joining RPOS. Mr. Main moved to Birmingham Township from West Goshen. Following a discussion of Mr. Main's background and experience, Vice-Chairman Kurey made a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that Mr. Main be considered as a new member to the RPOS Committee. Mr. Monteith seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2010.

With no further public comment, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen
RPOS Secretary