

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

June 17, 2009

Chairman Michael Langer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Building. The following were in attendance:

Michael Langer	Chairman, RPOS Committee
Greg Kurey	Vice-Chairman, RPOS Committee
Dan Hill	Member, RPOS Committee
Mark Beauchamp	Member, RPOS Committee
Jeffrey Corrigan	Member, RPOS Committee
Curt Staropoli	Member, RPOS Committee
John Conklin	Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

Absent from the meeting was Member Carol Leeson.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 20, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes for the May 20, 2009 RPOS meeting were approved, as written; all in favor.

BILLS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Langer distributed the following publications:

- Conservation & You, Spring 2009
- Kirby Built Quality Projects Catalogue

Chairman Langer also shared a letter of resignation from former RPOS member Dick Gross and publicly thanked Mr. Gross for his many years of service to RPOS.

SANDY HOLLOW UPDATE

Signs: Chairman Langer said the entrance and regulatory signs have been installed. He thanked Mr. Corrigan for his work on the sign project.

Mowing: Mr. Beauchamp said he will contact Mr. Hicks about mowing the meadow at Sandy Hollow.

Dog Waste Disposal Center: Recently, the Township has received complaints about the dog waste that is left at Sandy Hollow by visitors who walk their dogs at the park. RPOS has been discussing the possibility of installing a dog waste disposal center. Chairman Langer said he contacted a company in Delaware for information about installing a disposal center but has not received a proposal yet. There are many issues to consider with a disposal center, including the kind of center and its cost, as well as the cost to maintain the center. Mr. Conklin said the Board of Supervisors appreciates recommendations from RPOS as to how to deal with dog waste left at the park.

Fence: Chairman Langer said the fencing at Sandy Hollow is worn and RPOS might wish to consider replacing it. However, he added, it would be an expensive project. For instance, a 40 foot section of fence (four 10-foot sections) from Fenceworks costs \$983. Due to the expense, Chairman Langer said RPOS could consider using used or damaged rails from Fenceworks. Mr. Conklin also recommended that RPOS check with the Brandywine Conservancy to see if they have any rails they would consider donating to the Township.

Parking lot: Mr. Kurey asked if the parking lot at Sandy Hollow needs to be sealed. Mr. Conklin said that Road Master David Rathbun has a five-year plan for the Township and the parking lot at Sandy Hollow is something Mr. Rathbun evaluates as part of that plan.

BIRMINGHAM HILL

Signs: Mr. Beauchamp said the signs have been installed at Birmingham Hill. He added that the signs look great. He especially likes the fact that the entrance signs at Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill look similar.

RPOS members discussed whether the kiosk sign at Birmingham Hill needs a roof. Committee members decided not to roof the kiosk sign at this time, but will revisit the idea of a roof at a later date. Mr. Beauchamp made a motion to cap the kiosk sign for now. A decision on whether the kiosk sign needs a roof will be deferred until 2010. Mr. Staropoli seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

Chairman Langer said the county sign has been installed, as well as the sign indicating the trail's end. He also said Fenceworks is replacing a few sections of fencing.

Mowing: Due to concerns from some residents about mowing at the trail, MAJIC Landscaping will now mow the trail weekly from the inside of the rail to the road.

Landscape Plan: Mr. Beauchamp said RPOS has a budget of \$600 for landscaping at Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill. Mr. Conklin said the original request from the Brandywine Conservancy was for some kind of low screening from the parking lot at Birmingham Hill to Birmingham Road. Mr. Beauchamp said RPOS could consider a 30 to 40-foot section of landscaping to shelter the park and presented two plans. One plan included fencing, the second did not. Due to the cost of fencing, RPOS members favored the landscape plan with no fencing. Mr. Hill suggested RPOS include different kinds of grasses in the plantings. Mr. Kurey agreed, noting that grasses are both deer-proof and low maintenance. Chairman Langer said RPOS should discuss the landscape plan with David Shields of the Brandywine Conservancy, as well as with the Board of Supervisors.

EVENT

Concerning the Township event that is being planned to celebrate the Township's 325th anniversary, Mr. Kurey said he has picked the date of Saturday, August 27, 2011 for the celebration. He added that he would like to post the date on the Township Web site.

RPOS would like to have some kind of reenactment of the Battle of Brandywine at Sandy Hollow as part of the event. Mr. Kurey said that scheduling the reenactors will take some time and RPOS should begin working on that soon. Mr. Hill said RPOS will have to decide on the scope of the reenactment and will have to discuss such issues as how many reenactors they wish to use, where the reenactors will camp and where they

will park their vehicles. Mr. Kurey said after he speaks to the reenactors, he will have more details about the proposed reenactment for the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Kurey said there are many issues to deal with as the event planning continues, such as parking; trash cleanup; and vendors. He said he will report once a month to RPOS on the event and he will also keep Township Secretary/Treasurer Quina Nelling informed on the event plans as they unfold. Mr. Staropoli volunteered to help Mr. Kurey with various aspects of the event plans.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Langer said Jay Monteith is interested in filling the RPOS vacancy created by the resignation of Carol Leeson. RPOS members recommended that the Board of Supervisors consider the approval of Mr. Montieth as a new member on the RPOS committee. Mr. Conklin asked that Mr. Montieth send a resume to the Board for their review.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2009.

With no further public comment, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen
RPOS Secretary