

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

March 18, 2009

Chairman Michael Langer called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Township Building. The following were in attendance:

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| Michael Langer | Chairman, RPOS Committee |
| Dan Hill | Member, RPOS Committee |
| Carol Leeson | Member, RPOS Committee |
| Mark Beauchamp | Member, RPOS Committee |
| Jeffrey Corrigan | Member, RPOS Committee |
| Curt Staropoli | Member, RPOS Committee |
| Judy Jensen | Secretary, RPOS Committee |

Absent from the meeting was Vice-Chairman Greg Kurey.

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 21, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes for the January 21, 2009 RPOS meeting were approved, as written; all in favor.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes for the February 18, 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 information on the following items:

- The Municipal Application for the GIS Planning Technologies Workshop to be held April 17, 2009 at West Chester University
- Conservation & You, Winter 2009
- PA Historic Preservation Awards 2009

BRANDYWINE BATTLEFIELD 325TH ANNIVERSARY

Michael Harris, educator at the Brandywine Battlefield, discussed the possibility of holding the 235th anniversary of the Battle of Brandywine in Birmingham Township, specifically at Sandy Hollow, the O'Dell property or both. The celebration would tentatively take place in mid- to late-September of 2012.

Issues that were discussed concerning a celebration included:

- Transportation, possibly shuttle buses, for visitors.
- Parking for visitors.
- The need to seek permission from the Brandywine Conservancy to use the O'Dell property.
- Possibility of obtaining sponsors to help defray the costs, which Mr. Harris said could total between \$20,000 and \$25,000 to break even.

- The potential need to hold a public meeting to address any concerns from residents about the celebration.

Chairman Langer asked Mr. Harris to submit a specific plan to RPOS. At some point in time, the plan would then need to be presented at a Board of Supervisor's meeting.

CHESTER COUNTY TRAIL INVENTORY

Natasha Goguts and Justin Smiley, both from the Chester County Planning Commission, attended the meeting to discuss the County's trail inventory project. Ms. Goguts said the County is preparing a map depicting both established and planned trails in all 72 municipalities in the County. The information will be used by the County for planning purposes. Information on public trails will be shared with other municipalities, while information on private trails will not be shared.

RPOS members indicated on a map, prepared by the County, the two public trails that are in Birmingham Township:

- The 1.1 mile paved loop at Sandy Hollow Park.
- The 1.16 mile unpaved Birmingham Hill footpath.

Chairman Langer said he will contact the Board of Supervisors and tell them about the County trail inventory project. Ms. Goguts said the County map will be revised to show the Sandy Hollow Park trail and the Birmingham Hill footpath.

SANDY HOLLOW

Rules for walking dogs at Sandy Hollow

RPOS has received an e-mail from a resident complaining about the dog waste that is left at Sandy Hollow by visitors who walk their dogs at the park. Mrs. Leeson said rules on a proposed new regulatory sign at the park will ask visitors to keep their pets on leashes and to cleanup waste. The sign will also ask visitors to carry all trash and waste from the park. Mr. Staropoli said he will review the ordinances for the park to see if they contain language that deals with visitors and their pets at the park.

Maintenance

Mr. Beauchamp will send a letter to Township Secretary/Treasurer Quina Nelling concerning the proposed costs from MAJIC Landscaping for maintenance at Sandy Hollow. The prices for 2009 are the same as in 2008. He will also call Greentree Landscaping to discuss whether it is necessary to spray trees at the park three times a year. Last year, Greentree only did two sprayings.

Cleanup Day

The cleanup day at Sandy Hollow is scheduled for April 25 at 8 a.m. Mr. Beauchamp said he will examine fence rails and benches to determine what, if any, need to be replaced. He will also determine how much mulch will be needed.

Sandy Hollow Signage

RPOS approved the following motions concerning signage at Sandy Hollow:

(1) Mrs. Leeson made a motion to refurbish the existing Sandy Hollow sign. The blue background color of the sign will be darkened to match the blue color of the proposed Birmingham Hill trail sign. The Sandy Hollow sign will read:

Sandy Hollow Heritage Park

The Brandywine Battlefield Trail
Revolutionary War
September 11, 1777
Birmingham Township

Mr. Hill seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

(2) Mrs. Leeson made a motion that the Sandy Hollow regulatory sign will be in the same color scheme as the park sign. Mr. Beauchamp seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

(3) Mr. Hill made a motion to have a kiosk platform sign constructed at Sandy Hollow using materials and design as provided by RPOS members. Mr. Staropoli seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

BIRMINGHAM HILL TRAIL SIGNAGE

RPOS approved the following motions concerning signage at the Birmingham Hill trail:

(1) Mrs. Leeson made a motion that the entrance sign to the Birmingham Hill trail will read as follows:

The Brandywine Battlefield Trail at
Birmingham Hill

The sign will have a blue background. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

(2) Mrs. Leeson made a motion that the regulatory sign for the Brandywine Battlefield trail at Birmingham Hill will:

- Use the wording as was proposed
- Be 24" x 36"
- Be mounted on a kiosk (similar to the kiosk proposed at Sandy Hollow)
- Be located at the western end of the parking lot at the outcropping
- Have a blue background with yellow lettering

Mr. Staropoli seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

(3) Mrs. Leeson made a motion that the two trail ends signs will read as follows:

Trail Ends
Private Property Beyond This Point

Chairman Langer seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

(4) Chairman Langer made a motion that the O'Dell property/Skirmish Hill be officially known as Birmingham Hill. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

Birmingham Hill Maintenance

RPOS discussed the need to mow a five-foot wide walking path at the Birmingham Hill trail. Mr. Beauchamp made a motion to negotiate with MAJIC Landscaping for mowing services at the Birmingham Hill trail not to exceed \$2,018. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

Chairman Langer said it has been recommended that landscaping be installed to obscure the parking lot. Landscaping would consist of native plants and would be

installed at the eastern end of the parking lot. It has also been suggested to install landscaping around the trail sign.

Chairman Langer made a motion that RPOS submit a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for the planting of shrubs at the eastern edge of the parking lot, as well as a modest landscaping bed around the trail sign. Costs for the landscaping will not exceed \$600. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hill announced that the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway has a Web site at www.brandywinevalleybyway.org.

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

With no further public comment, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen
RPOS Secretary