

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

October 21, 2009

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

Michael Langer	Chairman, RPOS Committee
Greg Kurey	Vice-Chairman, RPOS Committee
Mark Beauchamp	Member, RPOS Committee
Jay Monteith	Member, RPOS Committee
Curt Staropoli	Member, RPOS Committee
John Conklin	Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

Absent from the meeting were Members Dan Hill and Jeff Corrigan.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

Approval of the September 16, 2009 minutes was tabled until the November RPOS meeting.

BILLS

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

SANDY HOLLOW

2010 Budget

Mr. Beauchamp presented the proposed \$14,630 budget for Sandy Hollow, which includes:

- Trail Corridor/Parking Lot Fertilizing - \$685
- Meadow Seeding - \$200 (need RPOS recommendation for reestablishment)
- Meadow Mowing - \$0 (part of lease agreement)
- Field Cutting - \$0 (part of lease agreement)
- Trail/Parking Lot (Mowing/Trimming) - \$3,625 (once/week for 28 weeks)
- Trail Corridor/Parking Lot Edging - \$710 (once/month for 7 months)
- Weeding - \$810 (7 months)
- Tree Pesticides/Herbicides - \$1,500 (3 times/year to trees only)
- Fence Maintenance & Replacement - \$4,800 (may be phased)
- Trail Sign Cleaning and Repair - \$200 (unlikely to be used because signs are new)
- Tree Trimming - \$500
- Miscellaneous Maintenance/Expenses - \$600 (includes cost for mulch)
- Trash Pick-up - \$1,000 (trash pick-up at Sandy Hollow is under consideration)

Note: Estimated items are subject to final quotes not yet secured.

Dog Waste Disposal Options

The Township has received complaints about the dog waste that is left at Sandy Hollow by visitors who walk their dogs at the park. Mr. Monteith has been contacting area vendors regarding the cost of maintaining a dog waste disposal center. The least expensive vendor is Pet Care Group, at an annual cost of \$720. Another option being considered is for the Township to provide bags and a waste can. Mr. Monteith has

contacted commercial haulers about emptying a trash can at the park on a regular basis. The lowest estimate he has received is from Integrated Waste Services who will provide the service at \$75/month.

Due to the tough economic times, Mr. Kurey said he feels RPOS should be careful about how they spend money. He suggested the committee consider soliciting volunteer high school students to help pick up and dispose of trash at the park. Since many college applications ask students to list their volunteer service to the community, Mr. Kurey feels that volunteering at Sandy Hollow would give local students an opportunity to obtain the community service hours they need. The Township would supply the student volunteers with gloves and access to a trash receptacle.

Mr. Beauchamp made a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that RPOS will solicit volunteer high school level students to walk the Sandy Hollow trail once a month and pick up and dispose of trash. The students will receive written acknowledgement of their volunteer hours. Mr. Staropoli seconded the motion. The motion was approved; four votes to one. Mr. Monteith voted against the motion.

Chairman Langer said that if the volunteer initiative doesn't work, then RPOS will consider another option for cleaning up trash and dog waste seasonally, especially in the winter when the need is greatest. If that doesn't work, then RPOS will consider a year-round option. Mr. Staropoli said he will contact the high school about the volunteer opportunity.

BIRMINGHAM HILL

2010 Budget

Mr. Beauchamp presented the proposed \$6,800 budget for Birmingham Hill, which includes:

- Trail/Parking Lot Mowing - \$3,500 (once/week for 28 weeks)
- Weeding - \$525 (\$75/month for 7 months)
- Hazardous Tree Inspection - \$200
- Hazardous Tree Trimming/Removal - \$300 (for portion of trail in woods)
- Trail Woodchip Replacement - \$1,525 (61 CY at \$25/CY)
- Miscellaneous Maintenance/Expenses - \$750

Note: Estimated items are subject to final quotes not yet secured.

Chairman Langer thanked Mr. Beauchamp for his thorough job with the proposed 2010 budgets for both Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill.

Trail Markers

The Township has received two e-mails from residents who have gotten lost on the Birmingham Hill trail. To deal with the issue, Chairman Langer presented a proposed trail marker that included the letters "BT" and an arrow painted on it. The trail markers would be attached to the fence posts along the trail.

Chairman Langer made a motion indicating he will make 12 trail markers to be used to clearly mark the area of confusion along the trail at Birmingham Hill. Mr. Monteith seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

Mr. Conklin said he will let the Supervisors know that RPOS is addressing the trail issue with trail markers attached to fence posts. Chairman Langer said he will call David

Shields of the Brandywine Conservancy to inform him of the committee's proposed trail markers.

TRAILS INITIATIVE

At the July RPOS meeting, Sheila Fleming, of the Brandywine Conservancy, said the Conservancy is interested in obtaining trail easements along the Brandywine. At tonight's meeting, Chairman Langer said the Board of Supervisors has approved the Brandywine Conservancy's trail easement project. He and Mr. Corrigan are working with Ms. Fleming on the easement project. Ms. Fleming will review current easements in the Township and will then obtain letters of recommendation from current easement owners. Landowners along the Brandywine will then be contacted and easement options will be discussed.

SANDY HOLLOW BASIN

Mr. Conklin said that during the fall road inspection, the Township Engineer Jim Hatfield will inspect the basin at Sandy Hollow to determine if silt is washing from the basin into the stream.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Langer suggested that RPOS members continue to attend the Board of Supervisors' meetings whenever possible. Mr. Conklin said RPOS presence at the BOS meetings is both valued and appreciated by the supervisors.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2009.

With no further public comment, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen
RPOS Secretary