

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

**February 17, 2010**

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
Dan Hill	Member, RPOS Committee
Jeff Corrigan	Member, RPOS Committee
Mark Beauchamp	Member, RPOS Committee
Jay Monteith	Member, RPOS Committee
John Conklin	Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

Absent from the meeting were Members Curt Staropoli and Robert Main.

**APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 20, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

Under the heading of "Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill Update," the minutes reflect that "Chairman Langer announced that the cost to maintain Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill will remain the same as last year. In addition, the landscaping company, MAJIC, will continue to do the maintenance work." Mr. Beauchamp said the minutes should have reflected that it is "expected" that the maintenance costs will remain unchanged and it is "anticipated" that MAJIC will continue to do the work. The minutes were approved, as amended; all in favor.

**BILLS**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements at tonight's meeting.

**SANDY HOLLOW UPDATE**

Maintenance

Mr. Beauchamp noted that, although he has not received formal acknowledgement from MAJIC concerning the 2010 maintenance cost for Sandy Hollow, he does not anticipate an increase from last year's cost.

**BIRMINGHAM HILL UPDATE**

Maintenance

Mr. Beauchamp said the maintenance work at Birmingham Hill will be expanded to include two landscape beds. MAJIC has been contacted about the work expansion.

**ANNUAL CLEAN-UP DAY**

RPOS members scheduled the annual clean-up day for April 10<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to noon. Clean-up activities, including mulching, will be performed at both Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill. Chairman Langer suggested that at some point during the clean-up

activities at Sandy Hollow, RPOS members should reevaluate the fencing so that the committee can make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors as to whether or not any of the fencing is in need of replacement.

Chairman Langer said RPOS is grateful for the volunteer help in past years with the clean-up activities at Sandy Hollow. To ensure that residents are aware of this year's clean-up day, Mr. Corrigan plans to place a sign in the parking lots of both Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill noting the April 10<sup>th</sup> date. In addition, Mr. Kurey suggested posting a note about the annual clean-up day on the Township Web site. RPOS welcomes any residents who have some free time that morning and would like to help with the clean-up activities at either park.

In addition to the annual clean-up day at Sandy Hollow, Mr. Kurey and three high school volunteers have been walking the park trail on a regular basis, picking up trash and other deposits. The high school students will receive a letter from the Township verifying their community service hours.

### **SANDY HOLLOW BASIN**

Chairman Langer noted that he has received an e-mail from the Birmingham Environmental Stream Team (BEST) about the possibility of developing the basin at Sandy Hollow as a Township model with regard to best management practices for basins. He said RPOS is interested in pursuing the Sandy Hollow basin project and, if there is continued interest on the part of BEST, then he feels the proposed project should be presented to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Conklin said that there are 88 basins in the Township. While the Sandy Hollow Basin is small and uncomplicated, Mr. Conklin indicated that there are several reasons why RPOS might want to consider the possibility of developing it as a model basin, including the fact that it is located on Township land and is therefore very visible to residents.

### **EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS**

Chairman Langer noted that Eagle Scout Jack Hall is progressing nicely on his project to repaint the canons at Sandy Hollow.

A second project to repair the benches at Sandy Hollow had been proposed by another Eagle Scout. The project has not been started and RPOS has not heard from the Scout on whether or not he plans to proceed with the project. Mr. Kurey said he and Mr. Corrigan will inspect the benches and, if need be, will repair them during the clean-up activities at Sandy Hollow on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **BRANDYWINE VALLEY SCENIC BYWAYS COMMISSION**

Mr. Monteith, one of the Birmingham Township representatives on the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byways Commission, reported that there have been issues regarding the nonperformance of the contractor KSK who was hired to perform a study. The Byways Commission is planning to hold a discussion to determine whether they wish to continue working with KSK.

### **INTERPRETIVE SIGN PROJECT**

At the December RPOS meeting, Mr. Kurey stated 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, including the Historic Commission. He added that RPOS is looking forward to meeting with members of the Historic Commission to gather their ideas, insights and suggestions for the historic content of signs, as well as to explain RPOS' overall vision for the park and signs.

At tonight's meeting, Mr. Hill said he will contact Historic Commission Member Lloyd Roach to tell him of RPOS' interest in forming a working committee for the development of the interpretive signs at both Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill. The RPOS interpretive sign subcommittee consists of Mr. Hill and Mr. Monteith.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Corrigan presented an update on a meeting he attended held at the Chadds Ford Historical Society to discuss the trail planning project proposed by the Brandywine Conservancy. One of the trail proposals discussed was the possible linking of the trail at Birmingham Hill to the trail at Sandy Hollow.

Chairman Langer and Mr. Corrigan are currently working with Sheila Fleming, from the Brandywine Conservancy's Environmental Management Center, on the trail planning project. The 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 trail 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.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2010.

With no further public comment, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen  
RPOS Secretary