

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

**January 20, 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
Jeff Corrigan	Member, RPOS Committee
Jay Monteith	Member, RPOS Committee
Robert Main	Member, RPOS Committee
John Conklin	Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

Absent from the meeting were Members Dan Hill, Mark Beauchamp and Curt Staropoli.

**APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the October 21, 2009 RPOS meeting were approved; all in favor.

**APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 16, 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the December 16, 2009 RPOS meeting were approved; all in favor.

**BILLS**

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

**INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE**

Chairman Langer noted that during the December RPOS meeting, a good discussion was held concerning the role of RPOS with regard to interpretive signage and the need to follow up with other Township committees, especially the Historic Commission. Chairman Langer will contact Lloyd Roach, Chairman of the Historic Commission, to discuss moving forward with the project. Mr. Monteith will join Chairman Langer at any future meetings between RPOS and the Historic Commission.

**SANDY HOLLOW AND BIRMINGHAM HILL UPDATE**

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. Chairman Langer also noted that Mr. Beauchamp has done a great job in budgeting for both sites.

**PRIORITIES FOR 2010**

The following projects were considered priorities for 2010:

Maintenance for Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill

Subcommittee Member: Mr. Beauchamp

Note: In addition to the regular maintenance at the two sites, proposed activities include an expansion of the annual clean-up day at Sandy Hollow, as well as the possible replacement of fencing at Sandy Hollow.

### Interpretive signage for both Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill

Subcommittee Members: Mr. Hill and Mr. Monteith

### Trails

Subcommittee Members: Chairman Langer and Mr. Corrigan

Note: Chairman Langer and Mr. Corrigan are currently working with Sheila Fleming, from the Brandywine Conservancy's Environmental Management Center, on a 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.

### Township Event

Subcommittee Members: Mr. Kurey and Mr. Beauchamp

Note: Mr. Kurey and Mr. Beauchamp are currently working on plans for a Township event. They will present their ideas at the March RPOS meeting for review and discussion by committee members. In addition, as plans unfold, they will update the Board of Supervisors on a regular basis.

## **SECONDARY PRIORITIES FOR 2010**

The following projects were considered as secondary priorities for 2010:

### Possibility of an additional Township park

Mr. Kurey noted that RPOS might wish to identify possible sites in the Township that could be developed into a park at some point in the future. For instance, he said residents might enjoy a park with an associated canoe launch along the Brandywine. Mr. Conklin said that historically, RPOS has helped the Board of Supervisors identify recreation and open space needs of residents. He added that RPOS could consider speaking with other Townships that have knowledge in park development, such as West Goshen, so that RPOS could begin working on a model for possible future park development.

### Survey

Committee members feel that a Township-wide survey could help identify recreational opportunities that would be of interest to residents. RPOS developed a survey a few years ago. Committee members will review that survey and discuss the possibility of making it available to residents, either by mail or online.

### Basin management

Chairman Langer said that the Sandy Hollow basin could be developed into a Township model with regard to best management practices for basins. If RPOS decides to pursue this project, he suggested that the committee consider working alongside BEST, the Birmingham Environmental Stream Team.

## **BRANDYWINE VALLEY SCENIC BYWAY COMMISSION**

Due to the efforts of the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway Commission, a portion of Route 52 and Creek Road has been designated as a scenic byway by PennDOT. The

Commission is made up of seven municipalities, including Birmingham Township. Each member municipality has two voting representatives. A municipality may withdraw from the Commission at any time.

Mr. Conklin noted that Mr. Hill, who has been the Birmingham Township representative for some time, has stepped down from the Commission. Although two members of Birmingham's Planning Commission have volunteered to join the Commission, Mr. Conklin indicated that to insure a balanced representation from Birmingham, it would be ideal to have an RPOS member on the Commission. Mr. Monteith said he will attend a future meeting to determine if he would like to join the Commission.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Conklin announced that there will be an upcoming round of ordinance updates to be considered at a future Board of Supervisors meeting. He indicated that now would be the time for any recommendations that RPOS would like to make to the Supervisors.

Also, the officers for RPOS will remain the same in 2010. Specifically, Mr. Langer will remain as Chairman of RPOS and Mr. Kurey will serve as Vice-Chairman.

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

With no further public comment, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen  
RPOS Secretary