

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

March 17, 2010

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
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 was Member Jeff Corrigan.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 17, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the February 17, 2010 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:

- Barco's Parking Lot Products
- MyGreenMind.com (includes information on biodegradable dog waste bags and dispensers)

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

Mr. Monteith noted that a task force has been formed between RPOS and the Township's Historic Commission to work on the interpretive signage project proposed for both Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill. The task force includes Mr. Monteith (RPOS), Mr. Hill (RPOS), Matt Bedwell (Historic Commission member) and Mark Gross (Historic Commission member). The task force recently held a preliminary meeting to discuss such topics as the historical significance of the parks and possible ways, through interpretive signage, to make that history available to park visitors.

Mr. Monteith has set up a Google Groups Web site, which will allow task force members to receive updates; store documents and maps; and accomplish other activities that will help move the project forward. Mr. Hill commended Mr. Monteith for setting up the Web site, which Mr. Hill noted is a wonderful venue for sharing information.

Mr. Monteith said the completion of the interpretive sign project could correspond with the Township's 325th anniversary celebration, which will take place in about 18 months. However, Mr. Monteith noted that the 18-month timeframe is an arbitrary timeframe and

that the project could be completed sooner. He will have a better idea of the actual time needed to complete the project after the task force identifies the steps involved and the anticipated milestones. Mr. Hill added that the interpretive signs could be staged over time, starting with the completion of a small part of the project and then slowly building on that piece.

CLEAN-UP DAY AT SANDY HOLLOW AND BIRMINGHAM HILL

The annual clean-up day at both Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill has been set for April 10th from 9 a.m. to noon. Mr. Beauchamp will be the team leader for Birmingham Hill. Mr. Kurey will be the team leader for Sandy Hollow.

RPOS is grateful for the volunteers that have helped during the clean-up activities in past years. To ensure residents are aware of this year's clean-up day, RPOS plans to place signs in the parking lots of both Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill noting the date, time, and need for volunteer help. Mr. Monteith plans to send a letter to the presidents of the various Township Homeowners Associations noting the need for volunteer help at both Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill. In addition, Mr. Kurey suggested posting a note on the Township Web site about the annual clean-up day.

Activities at both parks will include weeding and mulching; fertilizing plants; and picking up trash and sticks. Mr. Hill noted that a large tree limb is lying on the trail at Birmingham Hill. Chairman Langer said he will e-mail the Brandywine Conservancy to let them know that RPOS will clean up any tree limbs on the trail during the clean-up activities. In addition, Mr. Kurey and Mr. Corrigan will inspect the benches at Sandy Hollow and, if there is time after the core activities are completed, they will repair the benches. If there is not sufficient time, then they plan to complete the bench repairs at another time.

RPOS discussed whether they should also lay wood chips on the trail at Birmingham Hill during the clean-up activities. Mr. Beauchamp noted that they would need about 61 yards of wood chips for the trail. After a discussion, RPOS decided to defer the placement of wood chips on the trail until another time. Mr. Conklin said RPOS should inform the Board of Supervisors if they decide to proceed with the wood chip project.

SANDY HOLLOW UPDATE

Mr. Beauchamp noted he has received a proposal from Greentree to spray the trees and shrubs at Sandy Hollow. The cost for the spraying will remain the same as last year. Also, he said the maintenance work at Sandy Hollow will start soon.

Concerning the attack on a girl walking at Sandy Hollow by an assailant hiding in the wooded area near the trail, Police Chief Tom Nelling has posted signs at Sandy Hollow, Birmingham Hill, and the Township Building alerting people to the incident. Chairman Langer said recently he noticed a few women walking the trail at Sandy Hollow who didn't seem to notice the sign. He wondered how to make people take note of the warning sign. Mr. Hill suggested that Chief Nelling's sign be incorporated into a larger sign. Chairman Langer said he will speak to Chief Nelling about the idea.

BIRMINGHAM HILL UPDATE

Mr. Beauchamp said the maintenance work will start soon at Birmingham Hill. Chairman Langer added that bluebird houses, which were part of a Girl Scout project, are now in place at the park. Chairman Langer complimented the troop on the bluebird houses and

the nice job they did completing the project.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Langer distributed a memo from Jake Michael of the Chester County Planning Commission (CCPC) concerning the preliminary concept for a multi-municipal trail network that would extend through Birmingham, Pennsbury and Pocopson Townships in Chester County and Chadds Ford Township in Delaware County. The memo also presents a concept for a trailhead that could be established at the Brandywine Battlefield Historic Site. In the memo, Michael notes that the concept was initiated in the spring of 2009 when the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force contacted the CCPC to determine what opportunities there might be for linking Sandy Hollow to other historic sites within the Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark via pedestrian and bicycle trails. Michael said the CCPC staff held meetings with representatives of Birmingham, Pennsbury and Pocopson Townships and the Brandywine Conservancy. It was agreed that the preliminary concept memo be developed by CCPC staff, reviewed by the stakeholders and then submitted in final form to the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission.

In other business, Mr. Conklin said he will attend the upcoming meeting with PennDOT regarding the Battlefield trail connector between Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill and the feasibility of crossing the trail over Birmingham Road. Chairman Langer thanked Mr. Conklin for attending the meeting and for his continued support to RPOS.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2010.

With no further public comment, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen
RPOS Secretary