

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

August 18, 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
Mark Beauchamp	Member, RPOS Committee
Jay Monteith	Member, RPOS Committee
Robert Main	Member, RPOS Committee
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

Absent from the meeting was Member Jeff Corrigan.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 16, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

Due to the lack of a quorum, approval of the June 16, 2010 meeting minutes was tabled until the September RPOS meeting.

BILLS

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

BRANDYWINE TRAIL UPDATE

Sheila Fleming of the Brandywine Conservancy attended tonight's meeting to update committee members on the Brandywine Trail initiative, which is aimed at cultivating trail easements along the Brandywine River corridor. The project has been funded by a grant from the Martin Foundation.

One of the concepts explored is the feasibility of developing a trail along the Meetinghouse Road corridor. After speaking with residents along the corridor, Mrs. Fleming noted that about half are in favor of establishing a trail along Meetinghouse Road, while the others are opposed.

If the Township is interested in pursuing a trail along Meetinghouse Road, Mrs. Fleming said one option would be to use the available right-of-ways along the road for the trail. Township Engineer Jim Hatfield, of Vandemark & Lynch, has mapped the right-of-ways along Meetinghouse Road, including the areas where the Township would be allowed to take dedication of additional land beyond the normal 15 feet. If the Township decides to take dedication of the expanded right-of-ways, it might be possible to develop a trail along the road using the dedicated land. Some of the right-of-ways are registered on deeds and are therefore permanent. Others are not registered and will expire at some point in the future. Mrs. Fleming suggested that RPOS consider recommending to the Board of Supervisors that the Township take dedication of the expanded right-of-ways before they expire.

There is approximately \$500 left in the Martin Foundation Grant. Mrs. Fleming said the

remaining grant money could be used to study the feasibility of establishing a trail that would connect Birmingham Hill to Sandy Hollow. The trail would go past the Friends Meetinghouse, through the Spackman property and over to Sandy Hollow. Mr. Spackman has indicated that he is supportive of this connection.

Chairman Langer noted that RPOS needs to decide whether to make any recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on the possible dedication of the expanded right-of-ways along Meetinghouse Road, as well as the proposed Birmingham Hill/Sandy Hollow connector trail. A lengthy discussion followed in which RPOS members agreed that a connector trail between Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill is a high priority. In recognition of this priority, Mr. Beauchamp made a motion that RPOS recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the remaining Martin Foundation Grant money be used to study the feasibility of establishing a connector trail between Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill. Mr. Main seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

Concerning the right-of-ways along Meetinghouse Road, Mr. Hill made a motion that RPOS recommend to the Board of Supervisors that Birmingham Township take dedication of the proposed right-of-ways as depicted on the Vandemark & Lynch map, dated July 25, 2010, between the Worth property and Creek Road. Mr. Main seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

In a third motion, Chairman Langer recommended that RPOS develop a concept plan for trails within Birmingham Township. Mr. Monteith seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

In other business, Mrs. Fleming announced that the Brandywine Conservancy has received a \$46,000 grant from the William Penn Foundation to initiate planning of the Brandywine-Struble Greenway. The Greenway will run from the Delaware state line north to the Horseshoe Trail. The two-year project is slated to begin in September and will include inventory maps to be presented to each municipality involved in the Greenway, as well as three public workshops. Birmingham Township is one of 16 municipalities invited to participate in the Greenway initiative.

Mrs. Fleming also announced that a reforestation project will be carried out on a one-and-a-half acre parcel along Radley Run in the Knolls of Birmingham.

Chairman Langer commended Mrs. Fleming for her continued efforts on the Brandywine Trail and the Greenway initiative.

INTERPRETIVE SIGNS

Mr. Hill noted that the RPOS interpretive sign subcommittee plans to meet with members of the Township's Historic Commission to discuss various aspects of the sign project.

SANDY HOLLOW UPDATE

Mr. Beauchamp noted that, as requested by residents, the path between the Knolls and Sandy Hollow is now being mowed.

In addition, due to the fact that summer is nearing an end, Chairman Langer suggested that weeding of the landscape beds at Sandy Hollow be increased. Mr. Beauchamp

agreed and made a motion to increase weeding of the landscape beds at Sandy Hollow to twice a month for the duration of the growing season. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

Chairman Langer said he received a phone call asking whether residents are allowed to use metal detectors at Sandy Hollow. He noted that regulations at the park prohibit the use of metal detectors.

BIRMINGHAM HILL

After a brief discussion, RPOS members decided that weeding of the landscape beds at Birmingham Hill is currently sufficient and does not have to be increased to twice a month.

MONUMENT

Several years ago, RPOS discussed the possibility of restoring the Lafayette Monument. After investigating options, the committee concluded that it would not be feasible to restore the Monument due to both the restoration cost and the fact that the Monument is located on private property. RPOS members, at that time, also explored the idea of constructing a new monument at Sandy Hollow.

Recently, Supervisor John Conklin asked RPOS if there is still interest in establishing a new monument at Sandy Hollow. Mr. Main took on the task of investigating the cost of constructing a new monument for the park. From his research, he estimates that it would cost between \$50,000 and \$75,000 to construct a monument, depending on the design used.

Due to the anticipated cost of constructing a new monument, Mr. Kurey suggested that the committee instead investigate the possibility of moving the existing canon to a more prominent area at the park. Chairman Langer said he will e-mail Mr. Conklin about the idea of moving the canon. In addition, Mr. Hill and Mr. Monteith will meet with members of the Historic Commission and ask for their input on the idea of moving the canon. Mr. Main will get an estimate on the cost to move the canon. Chairman Langer thanked Mr. Main for the thorough job he did in researching the construction costs of a new monument.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Monteith has been representing Birmingham Township at the meetings of the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byways Commission. He reported that due to issues with the initial consultant, the Commission has recently hired a new consultant.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2010.

With no further public comment, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen
RPOS Secretary