

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

June 20, 2016

Chairman Siemer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Building. The following were in attendance:

Anne Siemer	Chairman, RPOS Committee
Jim Rosenthal	Vice-Chairman, RPOS Committee
Chuck Feld	Member, RPOS Committee
Jim Kelican	Member, RPOS Committee
Mike Shiring	Member, Board of Supervisors
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

Absent from the meeting was Member Michael Langer.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 16, 2016 MINUTES

The minutes of the May 16, 2016 RPOS meeting were approved, as written; all in favor.

BILLS

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

BIRMINGHAM HILL UPDATE

Chairman Siemer thanked Mr. Langer and Mr. Feld for drilling holes in the fence posts at Birmingham Hill, which allowed her to place American and Brandywine flags in the posts for Memorial Day. She also placed flags in the ground at Sandy Hollow.

Mr. Feld noted that he will pick up more fence rails to be used for future repairs to the fencing at Birmingham Hill and Sandy Hollow. He also plans to spray the poison ivy along the trail at Birmingham Hill.

Birmingham Township resident Marlou MacIver sent an email to RPOS thanking the committee on her behalf, as well as that of other walking enthusiasts, for making the small opening in the fence at the corner of Wylie and Birmingham Roads. The opening allows people to enter the Birmingham Hill trail off Wylie Road instead of having them walk along Birmingham Road, which can be a very busy road, to the Birmingham Hill parking lot.

SANDY HOLLOW UPDATE

Mr. Langer has picked up the two new benches that were delivered by The Bench Factory to the Township building. RPOS members will install the benches at Sandy Hollow in the next week or so.

Chairman Siemer said that there is \$1,000 in the RPOS budget for landscaping at Sandy Hollow. She asked committee members to think about ideas for changes to the present landscaping. The plan is to make the landscaping more maintenance-free.

Concerning the newest interpretive sign planned for Sandy Hollow, Mr. Rosenthal said he will obtain a current quote from Pannier regarding the cost to produce the sign.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Siemer said she received a call from Mike Dunlear of the Brandywine Conservancy concerning the Conservancy's project to map the Brandywine Greenways, which includes Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill. Part of the project will be the development of an App for the Brandywine Greenways Project.

Chairman Siemer noted that the Board of Supervisors is meeting with Sue Walters about how best to communicate with Township residents through such avenues as the Township website and the Facebook page that was developed for the 2014 Reenactment at Sandy Hollow. At the moment, the Township is not actively using the Facebook page.

Birmingham Township Police Chief Tom Nelling has been concerned about the snow in the winter that sometimes drifts across Sandy Hollow onto South New Street. He recently asked RPOS to consider whether some sort of planting would help mitigate the problem. At June's RPOS meeting, Mr. Feld shared an article titled "Conservation Plantings Provide Many Benefits." According to the article, while plantings can act as a windbreak, a single row of trees will not be effective in decreasing wind speed, and, in fact, might even increase the turbulence of the wind near the area that the trees are trying to shelter. An effective windbreak would have to include three to eight rows of plant material. Another option would be a snow fence.

At tonight's meeting, Chairman Siemer said she investigated the cost of a snow fence, which she found to be very reasonable. RPOS agreed that a snow fence would be a good option to consider for this coming winter. Chairman Siemer said she will discuss the possible use of a snow fence to mitigate snow drift with Chief Nelling.

Mrs. Jensen gave Chairman Siemer the names of two potential volunteers, Chris Hartsky and Scott Hineman, who might be willing to help out on various RPOS projects.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2016.

With no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen
RPOS Secretary