

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

May 16, 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
Chuck Feld	Member, RPOS Committee
Jim Kelican	Member, RPOS Committee
Michael Langer	Member, RPOS Committee
Mike Shiring	Member, Board of Supervisors
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

Absent from the meeting was Vice-Chairman Jim Rosenthal.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 18, 2016 MINUTES

The minutes of the April 18, 2016 RPOS meeting were approved, as written; all in favor.

BILLS

RPOS reviewed a \$131.40 bill from Brandywine Ace Hardware for the purchase of 12 fence rails.

INTERPRETIVE SIGN UPDATE

RPOS is currently working on another interpretive sign for Sandy Hollow. The sign will be 2 feet by 3 feet in size. Chairman Siemer and Mr. Rosenthal reviewed photos that Jim Serum took during the reenactment that was held at Sandy Hollow in 2014. Mrs. Jensen is currently laying the sign out in Microsoft Publisher using three of Mr. Serum's photos. The Township's Historic Commission has reviewed the proposed text that will be used on the sign.

VOLUNTEER CLEAN-UP DAY

RPOS held a clean-up day at Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill on Friday, April 22, and Saturday, April 23. The clean-up activities included spreading wood chips on the Birmingham Hill trail and planting three white oak trees by the cannon at Sandy Hollow. In addition, Mr. Feld replaced twelve fence rails along the Birmingham Hill trail. He also made an opening in the fence at the corner of Wylie and Birmingham Roads, as suggested at the April RPOS meeting by Township resident Marlou MacIver. The fence opening will allow 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. RPOS passed a motion at the April meeting recommending that the Board of Supervisors approve the opening in the fence.

Mr. Feld noted that a large Sassafras tree came down near the Birmingham Hill trail. Mr. Shiring said he will notify Township Secretary/Treasurer Quina Nelling of the downed tree. Mr. Feld also noted that he used all 12 of the fence rails that RPOS recently purchased. Since funding for fence repair is in the RPOS budget, Chairman Siemer suggested Mr. Feld purchase an additional 20 rails to be used for future fence repair.

MEMORIAL DAY FLAGS

Chairman Siemer would like to place flags at Sandy Hollow on Memorial Day. Mr. Langer and Mr. Feld will drill holes in the fence posts so that the poles of the flags can be inserted in the fence post, rather than placed in the ground.

PROPERTY UPDATE

RPOS discussed the 10-acre property at 1370 Birmingham Road that the Township is acquiring. The property includes a barn and a garage. RPOS is hoping that at some point in the near future they will get the opportunity to inspect the barn to determine if it is structurally sound.

NEW BUSINESS

At the April RPOS meeting, it was noted that Birmingham Township Police Chief Tom Nelling is concerned about the snow in the winter that sometimes drifts across Sandy Hollow onto South New Street. Chief Nelling asked RPOS to consider whether some sort of planting would help mitigate the problem. At tonight's 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. The other option would be a snow fence. While planting a windbreak of trees and bushes could be a permanent solution to stop drifting snow, it could be years before the plant material grows enough to act as an effective windbreak. Although a snow fence is a temporary solution, it could be an effective windbreak each winter at Sandy Hollow. Before any decisions are made, Mr. Langer suggested that RPOS determine how much snow fencing would be needed to act as a windbreak at Sandy Hollow, as well as the cost of the fencing.

Chairman Siemer noted that at a recent Board of Supervisors meeting, the supervisors indicated their support for a future reenactment at Sandy Hollow in 2017.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2016.

With no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen
RPOS Secretary