

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

**November 21, 2016**

Chairman Siemer called the meeting to order at 7:08 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
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

Absent from the meeting were Members Michael Langer and Jim Kelican.

**APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 17, 2016 MINUTES**

The minutes of the October 17, 2016 RPOS meeting were approved, as written; all in favor.

**BILLS**

RPOS reviewed a \$101.20 bill from Brandywine Ace, Pet & Farm for two fence posts and six rails.

**BIRMINGHAM HILL UPDATE**

During the October 29<sup>th</sup> cleanup day, RPOS members cleared out several truckloads of brush from Birmingham Hill and replaced a number of fence rails along the trail.

**SANDY HOLLOW UPDATE**

At last month's meeting, Mr. Feld noted that due to the rapid growth of Canadian thistle at Sandy Hollow, he felt the edges of the trail along S. New Street should be mowed with a bushhog. RPOS is currently obtaining cost estimates from various landscapers for mowing the thistle, which RPOS feels should be done two or three times a year to help impede the thistle growth. RPOS recently received an estimate from Brian Matuszewski of Land Art for the specified work. Mrs. Siemer said she will contact the landscape company that maintains her neighborhood to see if they would be able to mow the thistle. Additionally, Mr. Feld will contact the gentleman who farms Sandy Hollow to see if he is equipped with a bushhog and if he can mow the thistle.

Mrs. Siemer talked to Tracy of Clewins K-9 Scoop, the company that maintains the dog waste station at Sandy Hollow. Tracy said the station is usually about three-fourths full when she stops by the park, which indicates that visitors to Sandy Hollow are using the station to clean up after their dogs.

Concerning future interpretive signs at Sandy Hollow, Mr. Rosenthal noted that RPOS might want to consider designing inserts that could be rotated in signs at both Sandy Hollow and the Cacchio property. There is currently money in the budget for the development of sign inserts. Mr. Rosenthal suggested RPOS members email potential insert ideas to each other. These ideas will be discussed at the December RPOS meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Jim Kershaw, 504 Dilworth Farm Lane, asked if RPOS was aware of any updates concerning the Cacchio property. Mrs. Siemer said the property has been sold to the Civil War Trust. Mr. Kershaw asked about the fence along the property, which he said is in need of repair. He has been replacing fence rails along his property line. Mr. Feld said he believes a new fence will be installed at the Cacchio property at some point in time.

Mrs. Siemer said that at the moment, RPOS does not have a timeline for when changes will be made to the property. Currently, the Township is in the process of applying for grants. Mr. Rosenthal added that the easement on the property specifies what can and cannot be done to the property. Specifically, the easement calls for passive development, as well as measures to preserve the historic significance of the property. At the September RPOS meeting, committee members agreed that interpretive signs, benches, a trail and a parking lot could be developed on the property. They also thought that part of the property could be developed into different habitats, such as a wildflower meadow. Interpretive signs could be developed that focus on habitat and plantings, as well as history.

Although there are no definite plans for the property at this point in time, Mr. Feld said that any concerns that neighboring property owners might have will be addressed as ideas for the development of the Cacchio property are considered.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2016.

With no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen  
RPOS Secretary