

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

**January 16, 2017**

Chairman Siemer called the meeting to order at 7:10 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
Michael Langer	Member, RPOS Committee
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

**APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2016 MINUTES**

The minutes of the December 19, 2016 RPOS meeting were approved, as written; all in favor.

**BILLS**

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

**BIRMINGHAM HILL UPDATE**

Mr. Feld noted that several rails and one fence post need to be replaced along the trail at Birmingham Hill. Mr. Kelican has priced the cost of rails, finding that a bundle of rails (approximately 100 rails) costs about \$945 at Fenceworks. If not purchased in bulk, rails cost about \$10 a piece. At present time, Mr. Feld only needs to replace 12 rails. RPOS members agreed to wait until spring to purchase fence rails. If they do decide to buy the rails in bulk, they will have to find a location to store the excess rails.

RPOS is considering placing a second interpretive sign at Birmingham Hill. At last month's meeting, RPOS members discussed whether a second sign should be installed near the first sign or further up the trail near Meetinghouse Road. Because the Brandywine Battlefield frequently brings visitors to Birmingham Hill, the committee agreed that the Battlefield guides might have good insight as to where a second interpretive sign should be placed. Chairman Siemer said she will contact Andrew Outten of the Battlefield for input on possible sign location.

**SANDY HOLLOW UPDATE**

At the November RPOS 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. As a result of his suggestion, RPOS obtained cost estimates from various landscapers for mowing the thistle.

At the December meeting, RPOS discussed the cost estimates they received. The lowest estimate was from Lakeside Cultural Care (LLC) at a cost of \$75 per hour. LLC estimated that it would take approximately 8 hours to complete the work. At the December meeting, RPOS passed a motion to recommend that the Board of Supervisors hire Lakeside Cultural Care to mow the invasive plants, including the Canadian thistle, growing along the trail at Sandy Hollow.

At tonight's meeting, committee members agreed that after LLC mows the specified area, they will stop by the park and make sure they are pleased with LLC's work.

Additionally, at last month's meeting, RPOS members noted that the paint on the replica cannon at Sandy Hollow is peeling and there is a crack on the top of the cannon. At tonight's meeting, Mr. Langer said he has spoken to Forrest Taylor, the creator of the cannon, about the cannon issues. Mr. Taylor said he would stop by Sandy Hollow sometime in February to evaluate the repairs needed.

### **PROJECTS FOR 2017**

Chairman Siemer noted that projects for 2017, which are already in the 2017 budget, include fence maintenance (Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill); landscaping (Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill); apron gravel/wood chips for event parking (Sandy Hollow); and fresh wood chips (Birmingham Hill trail).

As another potential project, Mr. Feld suggested that flagstone and brick pavers be placed at the two Sandy Hollow signs because the grass is being worn away by visitors who stop to read the signs.

Chairman Siemer also noted that RPOS might want to purchase more American flags. The flags are placed by RPOS at Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill on various U.S. holidays, such as Veteran's Day.

Mr. Feld inquired about obtaining additional benches. Chairman Siemer said that although benches were not included in the 2017 budget, she would not be opposed to placing a bench by the replica cannon. Mr. Feld suggested that rather than putting a bench near the cannon, the committee might want to consider installing a sitting wall. Mr. Langer said he feels the cannon should be dressed up a bit more. He suggested that perhaps a fence could be placed around the cannon or perhaps a few cannon balls could be welded together and placed by the cannon. Mr. Rosenthal said perhaps RPOS would like to install landscaping around the cannon. Mr. Feld mentioned that there is \$1,000 in the budget so landscaping around the cannon would be possible. RPOS has also been considering sprucing up the landscaping near the Sandy Hollow parking lot.

Chairman Siemer noted that since RPOS only has \$1,000 in the budget for landscaping at Sandy Hollow, the committee should decide whether they want to landscape around the cannon or the parking lot. Mr. Langer suggested using the \$1,000 for the landscaping at the parking lot and making the cannon project a line item on the budget. Once the committee decides what they wish to do with regards to the landscaping around the cannon, they could present their ideas to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

After further discussion, RPOS members agreed that the projects for 2017 are as follows:

#### **Sandy Hollow:**

1. Fence maintenance (currently \$1,200 in 2017 budget)
2. Landscaping – refresh plantings near parking lot (currently \$1,000 in budget)
3. Apron gravel/wood chips for event parking
4. Additional landscaping and sprucing up near replica cannon

5. Paving stones by the two interpretive signs.

**Birmingham Hill:**

1. Landscaping near benches or entrance to cemetery (currently \$500 in budget)
2. Fresh wood chips on trail (currently \$300 in budget)
3. Replacement of deteriorated fence rails (currently \$1,500 in budget)
4. Additional interpretive sign

**RPOS REORGANIZATION**

After a discussion, Mr. Langer made a motion to retain Anne Siemer as Chairperson of RPOS for 2017 and elect Chuck Feld as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Rosenthal seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

Also, Mr. Rosenthal, whose previous term ended in December of 2016, has been appointed by the Board of Supervisors to serve another term.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2017.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen  
RPOS Secretary