

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

March 20, 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
Chuck Feld	Vice-Chairman, RPOS Committee
Jim Rosenthal	Member, RPOS Committee
Jim Kelican	Member, RPOS Committee
Michael Langer	Member, RPOS Committee
Mike Shiring	Member, Board of Supervisors
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2017 MINUTES

Mr. Rosenthal pointed out that the minutes should list Mr. Feld as Vice-Chairman, not Mr. Rosenthal. The minutes of the February 20, 2017 RPOS meeting were approved, as amended; all in favor.

BILLS

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

BIRMINGHAM HILL AND SANDY HOLLOW UPDATE

RPOS members agreed to make April 10th a workday at both Birmingham Hill and Sandy Hollow. Planned activities, which will begin at 9 AM, include replacing rails along the fence at Birmingham Hill and cleaning out invasive plant growth at Sandy Hollow.

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 had received. The lowest estimate was from Lakeside Cultural Care (LCC) at a cost of \$75 per hour. The committee passed a motion to recommend that the Board of Supervisors hire Lakeside Cultural Care to use a bushhog to mow the invasive plants, including the Canadian thistle, growing along the trail at Sandy Hollow.

As of tonight's meeting, the work has not been started by LCC. Mr. Langer said he will send LCC another email concerning the work. To impede the growth of Canadian thistle and other invasives in the future, Mr. Feld recommended that the edges of the trail at Sandy Hollow should be mowed with a bushhog twice a year; once in the Spring and again in late June.

Mr. Feld said he will speak to MAJIC Landscaping about pruning the shrubs at Birmingham Hill.

At the January 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 February's meeting, Mr. Langer said he had 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. As of tonight's meeting, Mr. Taylor has not come by to evaluate the cannon. Mr. Langer will email him again about the cannon repair issues.

CACCHIO PROPERTY

At last month's meeting, RPOS passed two motions concerning the Cacchio property. These motions were discussed at the March Board of Supervisors meeting.

The first motion was to recommend approval to the Board of Supervisors that the Township accept the generous offer from Shiela Fleming of the Brandywine Conservancy to help with the planning process for both the Cacchio property and the Fencework property. At tonight's meeting, Mr. Langer said the motion was approved by the Board of Supervisors.

The second motion was to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the Township hire a structural engineer to evaluate the integrity of the existing barn on the Cacchio property. This motion was also approved by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Shiring said that Vandemark & Lynch, the Township engineer, employs structural engineers and the Township will probably use one of the engineers from Vandemark & Lynch to assess the structural integrity of the barn.

Mr. Kelican said there are about 100 fence rails stored in the barn at the Cacchio property. RPOS may contact the Civil War Trust, who now owns the property, to inquire whether RPOS may use some of the stored fence rails during fence repair work at Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Shiring wondered if RPOS has ever considered asking a scouting troop to help out during scheduled workdays at Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill. Mr. Langer said that a boy scout did paint the cannon at Sandy Hollow and a girl scout troop made and installed blue bird boxes on the O'Dell property. After a discussion, RPOS members agreed that they will consider projects that would have an environmental impact, which could be completed by either a boy scout or girl scout troop.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2017.

With no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen
RPOS Secretary