

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

**June 18, 2018**

Chairman Siemer called the meeting to order at 7:06 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
Bob Socash	Member, RPOS Committee
Dan Hill	Member, Board of Supervisors
Sheila Fleming	Brandywine Conservancy
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

**APPROVAL OF THE MAY 21, 2018 MINUTES**

The minutes of the May 21, 2018 RPOS meeting were approved, as written; all in favor.

**BILLS**

RPOS reviewed a \$1025 bill from Gumball Media Services for the removal of a large dead oak tree and a medium-sized Beech tree at Birmingham Hill.

**SANDY HOLLOW UPDATE**

The Board of Supervisors approved the purchase of two benches for Sandy Hollow. A plaque will be placed on one of the benches in recognition of former member Michael Langer's service to RPOS.

Mr. Feld said that a number of fence rails are coming down at Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill. Some of the rails that need to be replaced are on the O'Dell property. Ms. Fleming noted that RPOS could contact Ellen Feretti (Director of the Brandywine Conservancy), to inquire if the Conservancy has plans to maintain the fencing along the O'Dell property.

**BIRMINGHAM HILL UPDATE**

A few weeks ago, seven people worked at Birmingham Hill spreading wood chips along the trail.

Concerning signage along the trail, Mrs. Siemer said that in light of the Brandywine Conservancy's relationship with the O'Dell property, she wondered if the trail could now stay on one side of Meetinghouse Road, along the O'Dell property, rather than cross back and forth on the road. If this can be accomplished, then there would be no need for new trail signs along Meetinghouse Road.

**BATTLEFIELD LANDMARK PLAN**

Ms. Fleming attended tonight's meeting to discuss the Battlefield Landmark Plan. The goal of the plan is to prepare a multi-municipal vision for the Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark along the Birmingham Road corridor. The key properties in the plan include Strodes Mill, Osborne Hill, Birmingham Hill, Sandy Hollow, Dilworth

Farm, and the PA Battlefield Park. The Brandywine Conservancy envisions the municipal partners in the plan to be Birmingham, Thornbury, Westtown and East Bradford. Funding for the plan would be obtained through the Chester County Vision Partnership Program, with each municipality securing additional funding. Partners developing the plan include such entities as the Brandywine Conservancy and the Conservation Trust. The Battlefield Landmark Plan is in the early stages and presently the work being done is to study what resources are present and what could be done to preserve those resources.

Ms. Fleming noted that the Brandywine Conservancy is asking Birmingham Township to donate \$5,000 toward the project. The other Townships would donate a total of \$8,000. The County's Vision Partnership Program would donate \$30,000. Ms. Fleming indicated that she could make a presentation about the Battlefield Landmark Plan at the July BOS meeting. For tonight's meeting, Ms. Fleming inquired whether RPOS was in favor of the plan.

After a discussion, RPOS unanimously agreed to request that the Board of Supervisors move to have Birmingham Township participate in the Battlefield Landmark Plan.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Siemer has received an email from a former resident who was visiting Sandy Hollow and noted a number of Orioles at the park. He inquired whether the Township could do more to promote bird life at the park. Ms. Fleming said that Kevin Freiburger, the Preserve Manager at the Brandywine Conservancy, would be an excellent resource for RPOS if they wish to discuss ways in which to promote bird life at the park.

Joseph First, a representative from Planet Fitness, attended tonight's meeting to inquire if a 5K run could be held at Sandy Hollow in September. Mr. First said that about 80 to 100 people would probably attend the run. The money raised would benefit the Boys and Girls Club of American. RPOS members noted that parking might be a problem at Sandy Hollow. In addition, RPOS has no policy in place for using Sandy Hollow for public events. Mrs. Siemer suggested Mr. First attend a Board of Supervisors meeting to discuss the proposed event. Since a request to use Sandy Hollow came up last year, RPOS noted that, in the near future, they might need to develop some kind of written policy for using the park for public events.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2018.

With no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen  
RPOS Secretary