

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

March 21, 2016

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
Jim Rosenthal	Vice-Chairman, RPOS Committee
Jim Kelican	Member, RPOS Committee
Michael Langer	Member, RPOS Committee
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

Absent from the meeting was Member Chuck Feld.

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 18, 2016 MINUTES

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

BILLS

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

INTERPRETIVE SIGN UPDATE

At the September 2015 RPOS meeting, Chairman Siemer and Mr. Rosenthal presented seven potential ideas that could be used on new interpretive signs for Sandy Hollow. They also sent the proposed text for the signs to the Township's Historical Commission for their review. Historical Commission Member Mike Forbes returned the Commission's review of the text, along with proposed text for an eighth potential sign. The sign ideas include:

1. Where is George Washington?
2. The Americans Last Stand
3. Marquis de la Fayette
4. Camp Followers
5. The Foot Soldiers
6. Brandywine Flag
7. The Fatigue of the Day
8. The American Right Flank Slows the British Advance

At previous meetings, RPOS discussed the idea of creating inserts that could be rotated in and out of a sign base. The inserts could also be moved from park to park. At tonight's meeting, Chairman Siemer and Mr. Rosenthal noted that they are currently working on developing appropriate artwork to go along with the proposed text for the inserts. Chairman Siemer also said that she has reached out to a few people who might have photographs and/or artwork that could be used on the sign inserts. In addition, she also has a map from Karen Marshall highlighting the American retreat, which could also be used on one of the inserts.

PROJECTS FOR 2016

RPOS reviewed a few of the projects they have planned for 2016. These projects include:

- Interpretive signs
- Replacement of fence rails: Mr. Kelican noted that the fencing at Birmingham Hill is in need of repair in some spots. Because the committee is low on fence rails, he said he will talk to Mr. Feld about the possibility of purchasing an appropriate number of rails to be used for fence repairs.
- Landscaping around the Sandy Hollow cannon: RPOS is planning to place a few trees near the cannon at Sandy Hollow. Mr. Feld will determine what species of trees will work best.

VOLUNTEER DAY

RPOS members plan to hold a volunteer day in late April at Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill. Activities will include mulching and replacing fence rails. The date of the Volunteer Day will be finalized at the April RPOS meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Siemer noted that Board of Supervisors Chairman John Conklin would like RPOS' input on the possibility of holding another reenactment in 2017. Specifically, Mr. Conklin would like to know what worked and what did not work when RPOS helped plan the reenactment that was held at Sandy Hollow in 2014. Chairman Siemer asked RPOS members to email their thoughts to her and she will pass the information along to Mr. Conklin. At the January 2016 RPOS meeting, the committee passed a motion that they would support a 2017 reenactment if 1) the event were of a moderate size (no larger than the event previously held at Sandy Hollow) and 2) RPOS would serve only in an advisory role.

Concerning the Facebook Page that RPOS plans to oversee, Chairman Siemer said she would like to work with one of the Township staff on any content that is posted to the Facebook Page.

RPOS members reviewed a February 19, 2016 letter from Erin McCormick, Conservation Easement Program Director of the Natural Lands Trust, who has been working with the Moore family (901 Birmingham Road) to conserve their 88.1 acre property with a conservation easement. The property is located in both Birmingham and Westtown Townships. The Natural Lands Trust is submitting grant applications to the Chester County Preservation Partnership Program and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and is requesting the Township's support of funding of the easement through grant applications. As part of the grant funding request for the conservation easement, the Natural Lands Trust is proposing a public trail, with potential parking access on the property, as well as the ability to hold organized Revolutionary War reenactments up to two times per year that would be open to the general public.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2016.

With no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen
RPOS Secretary