

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

January 18, 2016

Chairman Langer called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. in the Township Building. The following were in attendance:

Michael Langer	Chairman, RPOS Committee
Jim Rosenthal	Vice-Chairman, RPOS Committee
Jim Kelican	Member, RPOS Committee
Chuck Feld	Member, RPOS Committee
Anne Siemer	Member, RPOS Committee
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 21, 2015 MINUTES

The minutes of the December 21, 2015 RPOS meeting were approved, as written; all in favor.

BILLS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Langer noted that Board of Supervisors Member Michael Shiring will be the liaison for RPOS for 2016.

A workshop on Trails and Shared Use Pathways will be held on February 3 at the Brandywine River Museum, beginning at 1 p.m.

Chairman Langer noted that the Chester County Planning Commission is currently in the first round of their VPP Grant Program for 2016. Through the program, funding will be available for planning projects in Townships, including park development and open space preservation. RPOS plans to look into the funding possibilities.

INTERPRETIVE SIGNS UPDATE

At the September 2015 RPOS meeting, Mrs. Siemer and Mr. Rosenthal presented seven potential ideas that could be used on new interpretive signs for Sandy Hollow. Mrs. Siemer and Mr. Rosenthal 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

Mrs. Siemer noted that she sees numbers 1, 2 and 8 fitting nicely on one sign. The other topics, which have more of a human-interest nature, could be used on individual signs, or could be combined on one sign. For example, Mrs. Siemer felt items 3, 4 and 5 could fit nicely on one sign. Mr. Rosenthal said he likes the idea of developing inserts, which could be rotated in and out of the signs. RPOS had talked about the use of inserts at their September 2015 meeting.

Mr. Rosenthal and Mrs. Siemer will sketch out a few potential ideas for signs and possible inserts and will present the ideas at a future RPOS meeting.

PROPERTY UPDATE

Chairman Langer noted that Chester County is interested in preserving a piece of property on New Street and Birmingham Road. More details will follow as they become available.

2017 REENACTMENT PROPOSAL

The reenactors who used Sandy Hollow in May of 2014 have proposed a second event planned for sometime in 2017 to celebrate the 240th anniversary of the Battle of Brandywine. RPOS members agreed that if another reenactment event is held at Sandy Hollow, a company should be hired to organize the event.

After further discussion, Mr. Kelican made a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that RPOS would support a 2017 reenactment event if:

- The event were of a moderate size (no larger than the event previously held at Sandy Hollow)
- RPOS would only serve in an advisory role.

Mr. Rosenthal seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

After a discussion and election of officers by RPOS members, Mr. Langer made a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that Anne Siemer act as Chairman and Jim Rosenthal continue as Vice-Chairman for 2016. Mr. Kelican seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Siemer noted that Clevens K9 Scoop has been maintaining the dog waste station at Sandy Hollow. Clevens noted that the receptacle has been full and visitors to the park seem to be using the waste station to clean up after their dogs.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2016.

With no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen
RPOS Secretary