

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

August 19, 2019

Chairman Anne Siemer called the meeting to order at 7:05 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
Bob Socash	Member, RPOS Committee
Dave Shields	Member, RPOS Committee
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 15, 2019 MINUTES

The minutes of the July 15, 2019 RPOS meeting were approved, as written; all in favor.

BILLS

RPOS reviewed a \$2,185 bill from Land Art for erosion remediation at Birmingham Hill, as well as tree and brush work at both Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill during the months of June and July.

SANDY HOLLOW UPDATE

Mr. Feld, Mrs. Siemer and Mrs. Jensen installed a new interpretive sign panel at Sandy Hollow.

Due to the current state of disrepair, RPOS discussed the possibility of replacing the entrance signs at both Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill. The committee agreed that it would be nice to replace the wood sign structure with metal and the actual sign with a sign panel from Pannier. The entrance signs could welcome visitors to the parks, and could include not only the rules of the parks, but also additional information that would be appropriate for each site. The new sign panels would probably have to be about 2 feet by 3 feet. Mr. Rosenthal said he will call Pannier and inquire about the process that RPOS should use to layout such a sign, as well as the cost.

Mrs. Siemer said she will repaint the cannon in the fall when the weather is cooler.

RPOS discussed the current landscaping by the parking lot at Sandy Hollow. The committee agreed that the landscaping needs to be redone. Mr. Feld said he could draw up a landscaping plan that would incorporate native plants. Mrs. Siemer said PECO might have grants available that would help cover the costs of landscaping open areas using native plants.

BIRMINGHAM HILL UPDATE

Mr. Feld and Mrs. Jensen switched the two sign panels along the Birmingham Hill trail.

Mr. Feld has sprayed the poison ivy growing along the trail at Birmingham Hill. He has also mowed along the Worth property, as well as along parts of the trail. Mr. Feld plans

to ask MAJIC if they can mow along the trail, although he is not sure if they have a mower small enough.

NEW BUSINESS

Since the Brandywine Conservancy owns easements on the O'Dell property, the Board of Supervisors has asked RPOS to review the easements on the Birmingham Hill property and to bring any concerns back to the Supervisors. RPOS agreed that the one concern they have is who will have to take care of the fence that runs along the O'Dell property. In the past, RPOS has maintained the fence. Since it is difficult to get volunteers to help with the fence maintenance, committee members have been doing all the work themselves, which includes replacing decayed rails and removing and replacing fence posts. RPOS is also concerned about the current fence near the pond, which they feel is in very bad shape.

RPOS also discussed the easements on Birmingham Hill that allow for the placement of two benches at the park. The committee has noted that installing benches on the trail would allow visitors a place to rest since the trail is about a mile long to its end and then visitors have to walk another mile to get back to the parking lot. There is already one bench in the parking lot, which could be moved. The committee was thinking that a bench near the O'Dell driveway might be a good idea. If the committee decides to pursue the idea of installing a bench along the trail, they will be sure to consider the neighbors when picking out a possible location for the bench.

Mrs. Siemer noted that Chester County Planning Commission has approved \$29,000 on a project to place a sign in several Townships, including Birmingham. The sign is part of the Brandywine Battlefield Interpretive Marker Project. According to the project, an interpretive network would be created for the entire 35,000-acre Brandywine Battlefield. Specifically, driving tours would link Interpretive Markers that will be placed in each of the 15 Townships that the driving tour would go through. The signs will have about 85 words of text and will include the logo of the Township at the top of the sign. Each affected Township has been asked to select a site for the historic markers. The site must allow two to three cars to pull over to read the sign and does not have to be right on the road. In past meetings, RPOS has agreed that the best place to install the marker sign would probably be at Birmingham Hill. Because there is a parking lot at the park, people could pull into the lot and park so they could safely access the sign. Mike Forbes of the Birmingham Township Historical Commission will be the Township representative on the project. RPOS will discuss possible content for the sign at a future committee meeting.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2019.

With no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen
RPOS Secretary