

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

September 19, 2016

Chairman Siemer called the meeting to order at 7:09 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 AUGUST 15, 2016 MINUTES

The minutes of the August 15, 2016 RPOS meeting were approved, as written; all in favor.

BILLS

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

BIRMINGHAM HILL UPDATE

Mr. Feld removed and sprayed the poison ivy along the Birmingham Hill trail. He also fixed the sign post, which needed a new bolt.

RPOS members have been considering improvements to the landscaping near the cemetery at Birmingham Hill. Although there is money in the budget for landscaping, the committee decided to wait until spring to tackle any landscaping project at the park.

SANDY HOLLOW UPDATE

Chairman Siemer announced that the newest interpretive sign will be delivered to the Township Building on Thursday, September 22, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

At last month's meeting, Chairman Siemer noted that the container that used to hold dog waste bags is empty and is now being used as a trash receptacle. As a result, Mr. Feld has removed the bag container. He also replaced a few fence rails at the park.

Chairman Siemer placed flags at Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill in remembrance of September 11.

RPOS BUDGET

Committee members reviewed the proposed RPOS budget for 2017.

Changes to the Sandy Hollow budget, as compared to last year, include:

- Additional estimated expense for fence maintenance and apron gravel and wood chips for car entrances in preparation for the proposed reenactment at Sandy Hollow in the spring of 2017.

- The cost of increasing the dog station maintenance at Sandy Hollow from 45 weeks to 52 weeks.

Changes to the Birmingham Hill budget, as compared to last year, include:

- Additional funding for fence maintenance
- Additional funding for tree and branch trimming/removal
- Cost of landscaping by the cemetery.

NEW BUSINESS

RPOS members discussed the future development of the Cacchio property. In addition to interpretive signs, benches, a trail and a parking lot, the committee thought perhaps part of the property could be developed into different habitats, such as a wildflower meadow. Interpretive signs at the property could be developed that focus on habitat and plantings, as well as history.

RPOS plans to write up a proposed plan for the Cacchio property. Mrs. Jensen said she will ask Township Secretary/Treasurer Quina Nelling about the costs of the fencing, parking lot and entrance sign at Birmingham Hill so that an estimated budget for the Cacchio property can be developed. RPOS members also discussed the future maintenance of any new properties, including the Cacchio property, obtained by the Township. The committee works very hard with the upkeep of both Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill and feel that more properties will stretch their limited resources. Committee members recommended that the Board of Supervisors consider other sources to help with the upkeep of any new properties acquired by the Township. Concerning the Cacchio property, Chairman Siemer said she will work on a proposed budget for the development of the property.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2016.

With no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen
RPOS Secretary