

# **Birmingham Township**

## **Chester County**

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

**July 19, 2021**

Chairman Anne Siemer called the meeting of the RPOS to order at 7:02 PM in the Birmingham Township Building. A quorum was declared.

#### **The following were in attendance:**

Anne Siemer	Chairman, RPOS Committee
Chuck Feld	Vice-Chairman, RPOS Committee
Bob Socash	Member, RPOS Committee
Dan Hill	Member, Board of Supervisors
Melissa Urbany	Secretary, RPOS Committee

#### **Absent from the meeting:**

Kathleen Brecker	Member, RPOS Committee
Brian Bonkowski	Member, RPOS Committee

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements at tonight's meeting.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The June 21, 2021 RPOS minutes were approved, as written; all in favor.

#### **BILLS**

There were no bills at tonight's meeting.

#### **Birmingham Hill Update**

Stephanie Armpriester, Assistant Director of Conservation at Brandywine Conservancy attended the RPOS meeting to review the possible trail easement amendment to Birmingham Hill. As the Conservancy was going through the Master Plan process, they received feedback from adjacent Firethorne residents that they would like the trail to be extended to include Wylie Road so they would be able to access it.

RPOS expressed concern about the blind curve on Wylie Road being a line of sight issue, where drivers would not be able to see walkers. They decided to plan a visit to the location before the August RPOS meeting to walk the area. While there, they will also be able to identify which

areas need to have a double fence, particularly near the embankment, and be able to see whether or not the ground has any holes that could create hazards for walkers. Mr. Feld advised against placing stairs in the area. Instead, he suggested running the trail at a 15% grade to create a ramp. It would require a good amount of excavating, but he feels that it would be safer, especially in poor weather conditions. Mr. Feld also stated that he would prefer the Township mow and trim the 1250 ft. from Firethorne to Birmingham Rd. He will contact the current contractor and give the distance, as this area is not included in the current contract. Ms. Siemer also expressed concern that not much winter maintenance is done in regards to snow removal. She and Ms. Armpriester concluded that the members and Conservancy are on the same page in the thought that the trail will be used only when weather permits. However, they will revisit plowing the parking lot if the need arises.

In order to implement the Master Plan at Birmingham Hill, Ms. Armpriester informed RPOS that the Conservancy is currently looking for funding sources. They recently applied for a grant for trail improvements through Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, but will not hear back until next month. The grant would pay to move the fence back and for improvement if needed.

Ms. Armpriester stated that there was no rush to execute a formal amendment, and that she was only looking to receive conceptual feedback from RPOS on the idea of extending the trail along Wylie Road. The group plans to finalize this conversation in August at the next scheduled RPOS meeting and then share the information with the Board of Supervisors, so that if the Conservancy receives the grant, they will be able to move forward. The only thing needing approval from the Board is maintenance.

Since David Shields retired last June 2020, Ms. Armpriester provided the following points of contact for the project:

- Kevin Fryberger: Any day to day property management issues
- Sheila Fleming: Point person for master plan implementation
- Stephanie Armpriester: For any type of conservation transactions

Lastly, Mr. Feld and Mr. Matuszewski are planning to walk the trail to mark trees that need to possibly be taken down. There are two Dogwoods that are dead near the woods. They will get estimates on the cost, so if at the end of the year the budget allows, they can take action.

### **Sandy Hollow Update**

Despite Mr. Feld leaving the farmer a message to not mow the specific areas with milkweed, the milkweed was cut down at Sandy Hollow. It was left on the ground, so they don't believe it was for farming purposes. Next year they would like to put up signs that say "do not mow" and "do not spray." Ms. Siemer mentioned, however, that the rest of the park is looking very clean.

**New Business**

There was no new business at tonight's meeting.

**The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2021.**

Mr. Socash motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Feld seconded; All in favor. With no further business and with no public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Melissa Urbany

RPOS Secretary