

Birmingham Township

Chester County

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

September 20, 2021

Chairman Anne Siemer called the meeting of the RPOS to order at 7:01 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
Kathleen Brecker	Member, RPOS Committee
Brian Bonkowski	Member, RPOS Committee
Dan Hill	Member, Board of Supervisors
Melissa Urbany	Secretary, RPOS Committee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements at tonight's meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Bonkowski motioned to approve the August 16, 2021 RPOS minutes. Mr. Socash seconded; All in favor.

Bills

There were no bills at tonight's meeting.

Birmingham Hill Updates

Proposed Event on October 10th

Ms. Emily Pisano, the District Office Director for State Representative Dianne Herrin joined tonight's meeting requesting to hold an approximately fifteen person event, Hikes with Herrin, in the Township on October 10th from 1-3 PM. The theme would be Open Space Preservation, and would consist of an information table and a group walk with Ms. Dianne Herrin that would run in two separate sessions; one hour each at 1:00 and 2:00 PM. RPOS suggested the event be held at Sandy Hollow as the parking lot would allow more cars as opposed to Birmingham Hill. All RPOS members are in favor of the event, however, Chief Nelling will need to be notified and the Board of Supervisors will need to vote to give final approval.

Historical Marker

The Township has agreed to install a historical marker at Birmingham Hill. It is a countywide project related to the Brandywine Battlefield. The marker is being donated by the Sons of the Revolution nonprofit. Townships within the area are each receiving the same marker with their own local pertinent information on it.

Ms. Siemer and Mr. Feld met with the Township's Historical Committee Chairman, Mike Forbes, Vice-Chairman, Kelly Fleming, and Chester County's Senior Community Planner, Jeannine Speirs to discuss a proposed location for the marker. RPOS agreed they each need to visit the site in order to decide on the best location. The main goal is to not interfere with Birmingham Hill's viewshed and still have the sign be visible, but not readable, from the road when traveling in both directions.

Proposed Footpath Extension Along Wylie Road

The Conservancy's plan is currently on hold as they are still waiting to receive a grant.

RPOS committee members were able to walk the proposed footpath extension along Wylie Road. They concluded the section is very walkable and the extension would make the path much safer than its current condition, however, there is erosion at the road that would most likely need to be fixed by PennDOT in order to move forward.

Sandy Hollow Updates

RPOS agreed that all of Sandy Hollow should be cut at the end of the season, including the milkweed, as it won't affect the monarch butterflies and it would look more well-kept for winter.

The path is still overgrown and has not been trimmed, despite trimming twice per month being in the current contract. Mr. Feld has reached out to Majic Landscapes but has not yet heard back.

The group agreed to meet at Sandy Hollow on October 16th at 8 AM for a Fall work day. They will take a look at the beds and replace several broken fence rails.

New Business

2022 Budget

Ms. Siemer presented the group with the 2022 budget estimate. She noted the biggest expenses for RPOS are mowing and pet sanitation.

The main takeaways:

- The landscaping estimate was increased by 3%, however, it may need to be raised to compensate for current fuel prices.
- For the last reenactment, the brush lining Sandy Hollow's field was trimmed. It should most likely be done again this year, so it should be added to the budget just in case.
- Pet sanitation is a fixed price as there are three receptacles -- one at Birmingham Hill and two at Sandy Hollow
- The cannon will need to be touched up slightly with putty, sanding, and a coat of paint.
- New fence rails will need to be purchased.
- Mr. Feld is still awaiting the estimate for the removal of dead trees along Meetinghouse Road from Brian Matuszewski.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2021.

Mr. Socash motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Brecker seconded; All in favor. With no further business and with no public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Urbany
RPOS Secretary