

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

April 18, 2016

Chairman Siemer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Building. The following were in attendance:

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

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 21, 2016 MINUTES

The minutes of the March 21, 2016 RPOS meeting were approved, as written; all in favor.

BILLS

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

INTERPRETIVE SIGN UPDATE

Concerning potential artwork that could be used on the next interpretive sign planned for Sandy Hollow, Chairman Siemer said she will bring photos from Jim Serum to the next RPOS meeting. She and Mr. Rosenthal will also review the photos that Dan Hill took during the 2014 reenactment.

Chairman Siemer has contacted Karen Marshall from the Chester County Planning Commission about the County's "Map in Motion." Ms. Marshall said she will look into the possibility of RPOS using the map on an interpretive sign at Sandy Hollow.

VOLUNTEER CLEAN-UP DAY

Volunteer Day has been scheduled for Friday evening (April 22) and Saturday morning (April 23). On Friday evening, RPOS members plan to spread wood chips along the Birmingham Hill trail. Mr. Feld will pick up three white oaks, which RPOS will plant on Saturday morning by the cannon near the Sandy Hollow parking lot. RPOS will also replace fence rails at Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill.

REENACTMENT

Chairman Siemer, Mr. Langer and Mr. Rosenthal have been in contact with Board of Supervisors Chairman John Conklin and Linda Kaat about a possible reenactment at Sandy Hollow planned for September 2017. Mr. Conklin would like input from the committee on what worked at the 2014 reenactment and what didn't work. Chairman Siemer asked RPOS members to email Mr. Conklin with their thoughts on the matter. At the January 2016 RPOS meeting, the committee passed a motion that they would support a 2017 reenactment if 1) the event were of a moderate size and 2) RPOS would serve only in an advisory role.

PROPERTY UPDATE

RPOS discussed the 10-acre property at 1370 Birmingham Road that the Township is acquiring. The property includes a barn and a garage. Birmingham Township Chief of Police Tom Nelling has suggested that access to the property be from New Street. Also, because Birmingham Road is so busy, he suggested a fence be placed along the back edge of the property.

NEW BUSINESS

Marlou MacIver, 1040 Wylie Road, asked if RPOS would consider placing a gate on the fence of the Birmingham Hill trail at the corner of Wylie and Birmingham Roads so that residents who walk Wylie Road will be able to enter the trail at this point, rather than walk Birmingham Road, which is very busy and dangerous for walking. RPOS members thought Mrs. MacIver's suggestion was a wonderful idea. Mr. Feld said, rather than a gate, RPOS could make an opening in the fence large enough to allow people to enter the trail but small enough to prohibit horseback riders from entering. Mr. Feld made a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that an opening be made in the fence at the corner of Wylie and Birmingham Roads to allow people to enter the Birmingham Hill trail off Wylie Road instead of making them walk along Birmingham Road to the parking lot. Mr. Langer seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

Mr. Langer noted that Andrew Outten sent an email about a group of people who would like to do a helicopter tour of the Battle of Brandywine. Specifically, they would like to land and take off again at Sandy Hollow. Mr. Langer told Mr. Outten that Birmingham Township has an ordinance prohibiting the landing and taking off of helicopters in the Township.

Mr. Langer said that he attended an April 4th meeting of the Brandywine Creek Greenways Forum. Topics of discussion included updates on trails and trail networking. At the meeting, Sheila Fleming of the Brandywine Conservancy offered to help RPOS with any planning projects they might have in the future.

Concerning the Facebook page that RPOS has taken over, Chairman Siemer said she will come up with a concrete plan for how to use the Facebook page, which she will then present at a future Board of Supervisors meeting. She will also email Supervisor Mike Shiring (RPOS liaison) about the Facebook page and preliminary ideas on how to use it to disseminate information to residents about the Township.

Chairman Siemer noted that construction on the Birmingham Road bridge will start soon. The work should be completed by September.

Chairman Siemer said she received an email from Tracey at Clevins K9 Scoop letting RPOS know that the pickup day for the dog waste station will change from Tuesdays to Thursdays. Tracey noted that it appears residents who walk their dogs at Sandy Hollow are cleaning up after their dogs and are using the station to dispose of dog waste.

Chairman Siemer noted that Police Chief Tom Nelling is concerned about the snow that drifts across Sandy Hollow onto the road. Chief Nelling asked RPOS to consider whether some sort of planting would help mitigate the problem. RPOS members will discuss the issue on Saturday morning when they are at Sandy Hollow for the volunteer clean-up day.

Mr. Kelican asked if the Township could send a thank you note to J & G Tree Service for donating wood chips for the Birmingham Hill trial.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2016.

With no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen
RPOS Secretary