

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

October 16, 2017

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
Chuck Feld	Vice-Chairman, RPOS Committee
Jim Rosenthal	Member, RPOS Committee
Jim Kelican	Member, RPOS Committee
Mike Shiring	Member, Board of Supervisors
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 MINUTES

Mrs. Siemer noted that the September 18, 2017 RPOS minutes state that the budget for Birmingham Hill is \$25,802. This is incorrect. Mrs. Jensen accidentally got the figure wrong. The budget for Birmingham Hill is \$10,310. The combined budget for Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill is \$25,802. The minutes of the September 18, 2017 RPOS meeting were approved, as amended; all in favor.

BILLS

There were no bills presented at tonight's meeting.

BIRMINGHAM HILL UPDATE

Mrs. Siemer noted that, thanks to Mr. Feld's superb organizational skills, RPOS had a successful workday on October 10th. The committee installed a second interpretive sign at Birmingham Hill, replaced fence rails and trimmed trees. Another workday is planned at Birmingham Hill at some point in the future to replace additional fence rails.

SANDY HOLLOW UPDATE

Mrs. Siemer said that a resident at Birmingham Hunt has asked to hold a charity event at Sandy Hollow to raise money for a rare disease that took the life of his son six years ago. The Board of Supervisors would like input from RPOS concerning the possibility of residents holding events, such as charity events, at Sandy Hollow. RPOS notes that there are a number of issues that would need to be considered if resident-hosted events were allowed at Sandy Hollow, such as parking, bathroom facilities and liability issues. RPOS members agreed that there should be a specific set of guidelines for residents who would like to use Sandy Hollow to host events, if such a use is approved. Mrs. Siemer said she will contact the Township Solicitor Kristen Camp and Chief of Police Tom Nelling to see what sort of concerns should be addressed by RPOS. Mr. Kelican said he will contact Downingtown and East Goshen Township. Both Downingtown and East Goshen have public parks that are used to host various events.

Pocopson resident Jerry Barnes would like to donate a model of an 1841 Civil War cannon to Birmingham Township. Mr. Shiring stopped by Mr. Barnes' home and noted that the cannon is an 1841 6-pound Civil War era cannon. It was made by Jeff Strafford in 1993. The cannon is a ¾ scale replica, not full size, and can be moved. However, the

barrel is solid steel and weighs 450 pounds. The carriage is wooden with wood-spoke wheels. Mr. Barnes would like to donate the cannon in memory of veterans and others who have fought and sacrificed for our freedom. If RPOS decides to move forward with the cannon donation, the committee felt that the cannon could be placed at either Sandy Hollow or Birmingham Hill, or perhaps even the Dilworth property. Because the cannon is in need of repairs, Mr. Feld said it could be a good project for the students at Williamson College of the Trades where he teaches. He said he will check with the directors of the shop program and see if they are interested in taking on the cannon project for their students.

Mr. Shiring suggested that RPOS learns more about the cannon and Civil War cannons in general and continue the discussion at the November RPOS meeting.

2018 Budget

Mrs. Siemer said she has handed the 2018 budgets for Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill in to the Township. The budget for Sandy Hollow is \$15,492, an increase of \$320 from the 2017 budget. The budget for Birmingham Hill is \$10,310, an increase of \$988 from the 2017 budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Siemer has been in contact with Shiela Fleming of the Brandywine Conservancy. Mrs. Fleming is planning to develop a proposed plan for the Dilworth property and the Fenceworks property. She has not started work on the plans yet, but invited Mrs. Siemer to meet with her on November 9th to discuss potential ideas for the two properties. Mrs. Siemer said she will take information about the barn on the Dilworth property to the meeting. She also noted that if any other RPOS members would like to attend the November 9th meeting to let her know.

Michael Langer has stepped down from RPOS due to a move from the Township. RPOS is currently looking for a new member to replace Mr. Langer. Mrs. Siemer said she met a very nice couple who helped her out at the Township tent during the Reenactment event. She plans to reach out to them to see if either one would be interested in serving on RPOS. Mr. Rosenthal said he has a Radley Run House Committee meeting in a few days and will ask at the meeting if anyone has any interest in serving on RPOS.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2017.

With no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen
RPOS Secretary