

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

November 20, 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
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 16, 2017 MINUTES

The minutes of the October 16, 2017 RPOS meeting were approved, as written; all in favor.

BILLS

There were no bills presented at tonight's meeting.

BIRMINGHAM HILL UPDATE

Mr. Feld noted that a couple of rails were down at Birmingham Hill. Mrs. Siemer said RPOS would hold another maintenance day in the spring for replacing rails and any other work that needs to be done at Birmingham Hill at that time.

Mr. Feld also noted that the flags that Mrs. Siemer put on the fence posts at Birmingham Hill and Sandy Hollow on Veterans Day looked very nice. Mrs. Siemer said that some of the flags fell out of the posts, but someone was kind enough to gather them up and return them to the Township Building. Mr. Feld said he can drill deeper holes in the fence posts.

SANDY HOLLOW UPDATE

Mrs. Siemer said that a few small trees have been planted at Sandy Hollow, although no one on RPOS knows who has been planting the trees. RPOS agreed that if people continue to plant trees at Sandy Hollow, it would nice if they would let someone on the committee know where they are planting the trees and what species of tree they are planting.

At the October RPOS meeting, Mrs. Siemer noted that a resident at Birmingham Hunt 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. Mrs. Siemer said she spoke to Township Solicitor Kristen Camp about the various issues that might be involved if Sandy Hollow is used by residents for events. The issues that Ms. Camp felt would have to be considered included liability, parking, insurance, hiring security/police, and trash collection. Ms. Camp also sent a copy of the "Declaration of Protective Restrictions and Covenants" for Sandy Hollow. Mrs. Siemer

will forward this document to the other RPOS members. The committee agreed to review the covenants and to continue this discussion at the December meeting.

At the October RPOS meeting, it was noted that Pocopson resident Jerry Barnes would like to donate a model of an 1841, 6-pound Civil War cannon to Birmingham Township. The cannon was made by Jeff Strafford in 1993. It 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. At the meeting, Mr. Feld said that since the cannon is in need of repairs, he thought it could be a good project for the students at Williamson College of the Trades where he teaches.

At tonight's meeting, Mr. Feld said he spoke to the carpentry and shop instructors who were enthusiastic about acquiring the cannon as a project for their students. RPOS agreed that once repairs are completed, the cannon could be placed at either Birmingham Hill or Sandy Hollow, or perhaps at another location that is approved by the Township. RPOS agreed that the cannon would be a nice acquisition for the Township, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Barnes.

Mr. Rosenthal made a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the Township consider acquiring the 1841 Civil War replica cannon being offered by Pocopson resident Jerry Barnes. In addition, Mr. Rosenthal made a motion to recommend that the Williamson College of the Trades be authorized to repair the cannon, at a cost not to exceed \$500. Mr. Kelican seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Siemer met with Shiela Fleming of the Brandywine Conservancy. Mrs. Fleming has noted that she is available to develop a proposed plan for the Dilworth (Cacchio) property and the Fenceworks property. Because the Dilworth property is owned by the Civil War Trust, Ms. Fleming will not be able to work on any plans for the property at this time. However, she is thinking about possible ideas for the Fenceworks property that the Township could consider if they acquire the property. However, before she begins any concrete plans for the Fencework property, RPOS felt that it should be first determined if the property is still available to the Township. Mrs. Siemer said she will email Township Supervisor Mike Shiring and ask about the status of the Fenceworks property. Mr. Feld noted that the Township has two parks and no Township employee to maintain the parks. Currently, RPOS maintains the parks. He is concerned about RPOS having to maintain another park if land is acquired.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2017.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen
RPOS Secretary