

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

May 21, 2018

Chairman Siemer called the meeting to order at 7:06 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
Bob Socash	Member, RPOS Committee
Dan Hill	Member, Board of Supervisors
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

Absent from the meeting was Member Jim Kelican.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 16, 2018 MINUTES

The minutes of the April 16, 2018 RPOS meeting were approved, as written; all in favor.

BILLS

RPOS reviewed two bills at tonight's meeting:

- Brandywine Ace, Pet and Farm – A bill for \$164.25 for 15 rails. The rails were used along the fencing at Sandy Hollow during cleanup activities that occurred during the Civil War Trust Park Day.
- Gumball Media Services – A bill for \$175 for maintenance at Birmingham Hill.

SANDY HOLLOW UPDATE

On Sunday, April 22nd, the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force Steering Committee hosted a "Civil War Trust Park Day 2018" to help with any cleanup activities that needed to be completed at Sandy Hollow. Mr. Feld noted that there were over 20 volunteers helping during the cleanup activities. Activities included replacing fence rails and cutting vines and invading vegetation along Birmingham Road. Mrs. Siemer said she will write a letter to Andrew Outten of the Battlefield Task Force thanking all the volunteers who helped with the cleanup efforts.

BIRMINGHAM HILL UPDATE

Mr. Feld noted that there is a dead Maple tree on Meetinghouse Road that needs to be removed. Mrs. Siemer suggested that the committee get a cost estimate from Brian of Gumball Media Services for taking the tree down.

There are two large piles of wood chips along the trail at Birmingham Hill near the Worth property. RPOS agreed to get together at Birmingham Hill in the near future to spread the chips along the trail.

RPOS also discussed the trail signs at Birmingham Hill. The signs are small and not always easy to interpret for people walking the trail. Kelly Fleming, a member of the Township's Historical Commission, has some ideas on what signs could be used along the trail. At last month's meeting, Mr. Kelican said he will look into other possibilities for

signs and will also speak with Ms. Fleming. Since Mr. Kelican is not in attendance at tonight's meeting, the committee will table this item until next month.

BENCHES

At their May meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved two new benches at a cost of \$1504.61. One bench will have a plaque in honor of prior member Michael Langer who donated nearly 20 years of service to RPOS. The two benches will be placed at Sandy Hollow.

SNOW FENCE

At the May Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Scott Boorse asked RPOS to discuss possible solutions for stopping the snow that tends to drift off Sandy Hollow Park and onto South New Street Road near the intersection with Birmingham Road.

Before tonight's meeting, Mrs. Siemer did some research online about snow fences. The PennDot website does not always recommend their use. She found an article from Minnesota where rows of vegetation or certain types of bushes are planted to help impede drifting snow. Mr. Feld said that certain types of dogwoods could be used, which tend to grow more like bushes than trees. However, as RPOS notes, it would take a few years before the dogwoods would be big enough to stop snow from drifting. Snow fences could be used, but there is always the problem of where to store snow fences during most of the year when they are not needed.

Mr. Feld said he will get costs on different types of conservation plants, including the dogwoods he mentioned. Mrs. Siemer will contact PennDOT to see if they can help with ideas, particularly if fencing is used. Mr. Hill noted that this coming winter, a temporary fence could be tried. That way, RPOS could see if a fence would be of any use and where on the property it would be best to place the fence.

BATTLEFIELD LANDMARK PLAN

RPOS discussed the Battlefield Landmark Plan that was presented by the Brandywine Conservancy to the Township's Historical Commission earlier in the month. The goal of the plan is to prepare a multi-municipal vision for the Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark along the Birmingham Road corridor. The key properties in the plan include Strodes Mill, Osborne Hill, Birmingham Hill, Sandy Hollow, Dilworth Farm, and the PA Battlefield Park. The Brandywine Conservancy envisions the municipal partners in the plan to be Birmingham, Thornbury, Westtown and East Bradford. Funding for the plan would be obtained through the Chester County Vision Partnership Program, with each municipality securing an additional \$5,000. Partners developing the plan include such entities as the Brandywine Conservancy and the Conservation Trust. The Battlefield Landmark Plan is in the early stages and presently the work being done is to study what resources are present and what could be done to preserve those resources. Once a plan is developed, it would be presented to the various municipalities.

Verne Weidman, 580 N. Spring Oak Drive, noted that Sheila Fleming of the Brandywine Conservancy is presenting the same information that was presented to the HC to neighboring townships. Mr. Hill said it would be a good idea if the information was also presented to the Birmingham Township Board of Supervisors. Mr. Weidman said he will pass that on to Ms. Fleming and will also continue to keep RPOS informed on the progress of the plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Siemer noted that the Board of Supervisors has approved an engineering study for 1200 Street Road (Fenceworks).

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2018.

With no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen
RPOS Secretary