

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

September 17, 2018

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
Bob Socash	Member, RPOS Committee
Dan Hill	Member, Board of Supervisors
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 20, 2018 MINUTES

The minutes of the August 20, 2018 RPOS meeting were approved, as written; all in favor.

BILLS

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

SANDY HOLLOW UPDATE

Concerning the bushhog work that needs to be done at Sandy Hollow, Mrs. Siemer said she will call Lakeside Cultural Care at the end of October to do the work.

The two new benches have been installed at Sandy Hollow. Mrs. Siemer is planning to order a plaque from Parkway Trophy. The plaque will be placed on one of the benches in recognition of former RPOS member Michael Langer's service to the committee.

At last month's meeting, RPOS discussed whether the Township should allow public events to take place at Sandy Hollow. At tonight's meeting, after a discussion and agreement that private events should not be allowed at Sandy Hollow, RPOS unanimously agreed to forward the following statement to the Board of Supervisors for their review and if approved be added to the current statement about Sandy Hollow on the Township website:

Sandy Hollow Heritage Park, 42 acres of preserved open space, much as it was in 1777, allows public access to a portion of the Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark. Established in 2002, the park has a 1.1 mile asphalt path for pedestrians. An interpretive sign acknowledging the historic event is located along the path.

This Battlefield is viewed as hallowed ground due to the sacrifices of the participants on both sides of the conflict and as such should be used as a place of reflection, education and tranquil recreation. Therefore it is meant to be enjoyed by all, however no private events or organized activities will be allowed at Sandy Hollow Heritage Park in order to maintain the true intent of the Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark.

The park can be accessed from a parking area on South New Street, north of the intersection of South New Street and Birmingham Road.

WINTER SNOW FENCE

At last month's RPOS meeting, committee members passed a motion recommending to the Board of Supervisors that a 4-foot tall wood snow fence, approximately 200 feet in length, be temporarily placed at Sandy Hollow to help with the snow that tends to drift off Sandy Hollow onto South New Street near the intersection with Birmingham Road. The motion has been accepted by the Board of Supervisors.

Police Chief Tom Nelling said he will pick up the fence and posts. Mrs. Siemer said that if the temporary fence works, then RPOS will discuss a more permanent solution.

CANNON

Mrs. Siemer said that the wood on the cannon at Sandy Hollow is splitting and the paint is chipping off. She said she will putty, sand and paint the crack in the cannon. The paint on the faux hinges is also deteriorating, which Mrs. Siemer said she can paint over with gray paint. Mr. Feld said he will stop by Sandy Hollow and take a look at the cannon.

A Pennsbury resident has offered to donate a replica cannon to the Township. Mrs. Siemer said she will get the resident's contact information from Board of Supervisor Mike Shiring and will then contact the resident.

BIRMINGHAM HILL UPDATE

Mrs. Siemer said that the Brandywine Conservancy did close on the O'Dell property. Mrs. Siemer noted that the Conservancy is interested in keeping the Birmingham Hill trail on one side of Meetinghouse Road. If the trail does stay on one side of Meetinghouse Road, Mrs. Siemer said RPOS should consider putting up signage reflecting the change. Residents along Meetinghouse Road would be contacted for input before signage is installed. RPOS will still need to take care of some of the fencing along the trail. David Shields of the Brandywine Conservancy, noted that there are rails stored in the barn on the O'Dell property that RPOS could use.

BUDGET

RPOS discussed the budget for 2019 for both Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill. Items included in the budget include maintenance costs for both parks; the pet station at Sandy Hollow; the possibility of redoing the landscaping at Sandy Hollow over the next two years; and refurbishing the sign at entrance of Birmingham Hill.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business at tonight's meeting.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2018.

With no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen
RPOS Secretary