

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

February 18, 2019

Chairman Anne Siemer called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Township Building. The following were in attendance:

Anne Siemer	Chairman, RPOS Committee
Chuck Feld	Vice-Chairman, RPOS Committee
Bob Socash	Member, RPOS Committee
Jim Rosenthal	Member, RPOS Committee
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 21, 2019 MINUTES

The minutes of the January 21, 2019 RPOS meeting were approved, as written; all in favor.

BILLS

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

PRESENTATION ON BALANCING NATURE AND COMMERCE

Kathleen McCaig, from the Brandywine Conservancy, attended tonight's meeting to speak on the topic of balancing nature and commerce. Katie Allen, Director of the Conservation Leadership of West Virginia, joined the discussion by phone.

Part of the presentation involved an upcoming workshop on April 8 – 9 to be held at Winterthur Museum & Garden. The purpose of the workshop, titled Balancing Nature and Commerce in the Brandywine Valley, is to bring stakeholders of the Brandywine Valley region together to generate community-driven action plans for projects that capitalize on the establishment of the First State National Historical Park and foster asset-based economic development and conservation stewardship of the region's natural, cultural and historic assets. The registration deadline for the workshop is March 8th.

PROJECTS PLANNED FOR 2019

Mrs. Siemer listed the following projects planned by RPOS in 2019 at Sandy Hollow:

- Spring brush cutting along tree line
- Additional interpretive sign panel
- Cannon repair and paint
- Landscaping refresh around parking lot
- Landscaping plan (consider shrubs, bench, sitting wall).

Projects planned at Birmingham Hill include:

- Additional interpretive sign panel
- Fresh wood chips for the Birmingham Hill trail
- Replacement of deteriorated fence rails and posts
- Directional trail signs.

SANDY HOLLOW UPDATE

Mr. Feld said the bushhogging planned at Sandy Hollow will take place in a couple of weeks. He also noted that there are two trees near the Spackman property that need to be trimmed. Brian of Gumball Media Services will take care of the trees.

BIRMINGHAM HILL WORKDAY

Mrs. Siemer has been in contact with Andrew Outten. He said volunteers from the American Battlefield Trust could help again this spring with maintenance tasks at Sandy Hollow. RPOS members plan to hold a workday on Saturday, April 6th at 8 a.m. (Rain date will be Sunday, April 7th). Mrs. Siemer will contact Mr. Outten about the date. RPOS is hoping to work at Birmingham Hill that day, replacing rails and posts along the fence, as well as trimming around the trail and perhaps laying down more wood chips.

BIRMINGHAM HILL UPDATE

Mrs. Siemer would like to place some directional signs on the Birmingham Hill Trail so that people walking it know exactly where the trail goes. She has envisioned signs with a blue background and yellow writing with arrows. The signs could be installed during the workday on April 6th.

Mrs. Siemer noted that the cannon at Sandy Hollow needs to be painted. If the weather is warm enough on April 6th, RPOS plans to also repaint the cannon.

INTERPRETIVE SIGNS

Mrs. Jensen and Mrs. Siemer are working on a new interpretive sign panel on Foot Soldiers. Mrs. Jensen has been in contact with local photographer Rick Pettine, who has graciously donated three of his photos from the reenactment at Sandy Hollow to be used on the sign. Mrs. Siemer is contacting another photographer, Kathy Miller, about using one of her photos on the sign.

Other sign topics being considered are Camp Followers, Battlefield Flags and Lafayette.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Siemer attended a meeting on the Brandywine Creek Water Trail Feasibility Study. Water trails are recreational and educational corridors between specific locations that can be used for both single day and multiple day trips on and along waterways. The Brandywine Conservancy and the Chester County Planning Commission are studying the feasibility of a formalized water trail and are looking for input. A survey is available at www.surveymonkey.com/t/brandywinewatertrail.

Attendees at the meeting noted that some items needed for the Brandywine are:

- Route maps (with distances and access points)
- Additional put-in and take-out points
- Parking
- Easy portage around dams.

Mr. Rosenthal noted that Radley Run is holding a Town Walk on August 29. He said that organizers of the event would be grateful for any help from the public that they can get.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen
RPOS Secretary