

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

**September 16, 2019**

Chairman Anne Siemer called the meeting to order at 7:02 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
Dave Shields	Member, RPOS Committee
Dan Hill	Member, Board of Supervisors
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

Absent from the meeting was Member Jim Rosenthal.

**APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 18, 2019 MINUTES**

The minutes of the August 18, 2019 RPOS meeting were approved, as written; all in favor.

**BILLS**

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

**SANDY HOLLOW UPDATE**

Mrs. Siemer has contacted Tracy Clevens of Clevens K9 Scoop about the maintenance of the dog waste stations at Sandy Hollow. Ms. Clevens said that the dog waste station near the parking lot is always full each week and the second station that was installed farther along the trail is usually half-full. RPOS agreed that people appear to be using both stations to clean up after their dogs.

Mrs. Siemer and Mrs. Jensen have repainted the cannon at Sandy Hollow. The black detail work on the cannon is made from wood and has weathered poorly. While attending Chadds Ford Day, Mrs. Siemer spoke with a blacksmith about replacing the wood details on the cannon with metal. The blacksmith expressed interest in the potential project. Mrs. Siemer will contact the blacksmith in the near future to see if he is still interested in pursuing the project and to find out his ideas for replacing the detail work, as well as an estimate of the cost to the Township.

Concerning the number of dead trees along New Street at Sandy Hollow, Mr. Feld said he will contact Brian of Land Art and ask him to take a look at the trees.

**BIRMINGHAM HILL UPDATE**

RPOS discussed the idea of installing two dog waste stations at Birmingham Hill. The stations would be similar to the stations that have been installed at Sandy Hollow. One station could be placed near the parking lot and a second could be placed near the O'Dell driveway. RPOS agreed that if they pursue the dog waste stations for Birmingham Hill, they will first speak with neighbors near the trail, as well as the Brandywine Conservancy, about the potential project.

Mr. Feld has sprayed and cut the poison ivy that is growing on some of the trees along the trail. He also noted that some of the trees look like they are dying and will contact Brian of Land Art to discuss his concern.

Mrs. Siemer noted that some of the rails need to be replaced along Meetinghouse Road near the gate. RPOS members agreed to meet on November 16 at 8 a.m. to replace the fence rails at Birmingham Hill.

Mrs. Siemer said that Goshen Signs can make trail signs for \$20 per sign. RPOS agreed that Mrs. Siemer should order the signs and the committee will install them to indicate to visitors exactly where the Birmingham Trail goes. In the past, visitors had to cross Meetinghouse Road while walking the trail. However, this is no longer the case as the trail now runs along the O'Dell property.

## **2020 BUDGET**

RPOS discussed the proposed budget for 2020 for Sandy Hollow. The budget totals \$17,300 and includes the following items:

- Trail Corridor /Parking Lot Maintenance (mowing, trimming, weeding)
- Bed mulching
- Brush cutting along tree line
- Tree trimming
- Fence Maintenance
- Landscaping
- Dog waste station maintenance
- Interpretive signs
- Leave No Trace
- Miscellaneous expenses

The budget for Birmingham Hill totals \$15,155 and includes:

- Trail/parking lot mowing
- Weeding
- Bed mulching
- Hazardous tree trimming/removal (The committee agreed to increase this item from \$2,500 to \$3,000)
- Trail woodchip replacement
- Fence Maintenance
- Interpretive signs
- Miscellaneous expenses

Proposed projects as discussed by RPOS include:

- Replace the entrance signs at both Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill. Mr. Rosenthal has contacted Pannier and has an estimate of \$1,400 per sign (\$600 for the panel; \$675 for a new metal base: and the remainder of the cost for shipping).
- Place a second bench at Birmingham Hill. Because the trail is about a mile long to its end and then visitors have to walk another mile to get back to the parking lot, the committee, at previous meetings, have discussed installing a bench along the trail to allow visitors a place to rest. The committee noted that a bench near the O'Dell driveway might be a good idea. If the committee decides to pursue the installation of a bench along the trail, they will contact the neighbors near the

trail, as well as the Brandywine Conservancy, to discuss possible locations for the bench.

- Replace the current landscaping beds by the Sandy Hollow parking lot. The committee agreed that the landscaping needs to be redone. Mr. Feld said he could draw up a landscaping plan that would incorporate native plants. Mrs. Siemer said PECO might have grants available that would help cover the costs of the new landscaping. However, the grant deadline for this coming year is October 31, 2019, so the landscaping could be planned for 2021 and RPOS could look into the PECO grants during 2020.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2019.

With no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen  
RPOS Secretary