

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

**November 18, 2019**

Chairman Anne 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 |
| Bob Socash   | Member, RPOS Committee        |
| Dave Shields | Member, RPOS Committee        |
| Judy Jensen  | Secretary, RPOS Committee     |

Absent from the meeting was Member Jim Rosenthal.

**APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2019 MINUTES**

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

**BILLS**

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

**PRESENTATION BY LOCAL STUDENTS**

As part of the First Lego League competition, a group of local school children, from the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades, visited Sandy Hollow to assess areas of the park that they felt could be improved. The students presented their findings at tonight's meeting. Their suggestions for improvements included the installation of a small playground and a tall fence that would keep children off of S. New Street; more interpretive signs and benches; bathroom facilities and a drinking fountain; a small fitness center; and a crosswalk so visitors could safely cross S. New Street when walking to the park.

RPOS members thanked the students for their presentation, noting that it was well thought out and professional. The committee especially liked the idea of more benches and interpretive signs. They also thought the suggestion of a crosswalk on S. New Street was excellent. In addition, the committee explained to the students that the purpose of RPOS is as a recommending body to the Board of Supervisors, who ultimately make the decisions for the Township, including decisions related to the Township's two parks.

**BUDGET**

As an update to the 2020 RPOS budget, Mrs. Siemer noted that the Board of Supervisors, due to budgetary constraints, have limited the Sandy Hollow budget to \$15,000 and the Birmingham Hill budget to \$11,000. While the budget for Sandy Hollow is adequate, RPOS agreed that the budget for Birmingham Hill is a bit tight and therefore, the committee might not be able to pursue the installation of a dog waste station or more benches at Birmingham Hill in 2020.

**BIRMINGHAM HILL UPDATE**

RPOS members, along with volunteer Chris Siemer, met on November 16 at Birmingham Hill to replace rails and posts along the fencing at the park. Much of the

fencing along the trail, especially near the pond, is in poor condition and RPOS has been continually replacing the rails and posts over the past several years. Since total replacement of the fence would be too big a job for RPOS members and because replacement might be necessary in the future, Mrs. Siemer inquired about the cost of hiring Fenceworks to replace the fencing. The Fencework estimates include:

- 400 linear feet of pressure treated posts and rail fence. Total cost is \$3,893.
- 250 linear feet of pressure treated posts and rail fence. Total cost is \$2,925.
- 20 line posts in various locations in the fence line. Total cost is \$1,729.

RPOS will share these cost estimates with the Board of Supervisors.

#### **ENTRANCE SIGNS AT BIRMINGHAM HILL AND SANDY HOLLOW**

Mrs. Siemer asked Goshen Signs for a cost estimate to make an entrance sign in plastic for both Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill. Goshen Signs said it would cost about \$250 per sign. As part of the 2020 work at the parks, RPOS has proposed replacing both signs. The current signs are in poor condition and are barely readable at this point in time.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Siemer attended a meeting on The Birmingham Hill Master Plan being developed by the Brandywine Conservancy. The Master Plan advisory committee is proposing to develop trails and interpretive signs on the Birmingham Hill property. They will keep some of the structures, such as the log cabin, but do not plan to develop any paved trails on the property. The planning process will continue into June 2020.

The Brandywine Conservancy is working on a Water Trail Feasibility Study and hosted a meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup> at the Brandywine Conservancy. Mrs. Siemer attended the meeting. The goal of the Study is to preserve the Brandywine Creek, make it more user friendly and improve the flow of the water in attempt to help preserve fish habitats. Mrs. Siemer said a representative from the Pennsylvania Fishing Commission presented a great deal of information about fishing programs and activities for adults and children.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2019.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen  
RPOS Secretary