

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

September 21, 2020

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

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 17, 2020 MINUTES

The minutes of the August 17, 2020 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 spoke recently with Tracy of Clevens K9, the company that maintains the dog waste stations at Sandy Hollow. Tracy noted that the two stations at the park are well used by visitors with dogs.

Mrs. Siemer said she and her husband cleaned the signs at Sandy Hollow. She noted that the cannon at the park needs to be sanded and repainted. Mrs. Jensen said that she and her husband would be happy to sand and repaint the cannon.

BIRMINGHAM HILL UPDATE

In addition to nine rails replaced by Mr. Feld, Mrs. Siemer, her husband, and Mr. Feld replaced 12 more rails at Birmingham Hill. Mrs. Siemer noted that a few fence posts are leaning and will need to be replaced. RPOS agreed to meet at Birmingham Hill on October 10th at 8 a.m. to replace the fence posts.

Mrs. Siemer said it might be nice to switch the sign panels at Birmingham Hill and Sandy Hollow so visitors to both parks would have the opportunity to view different signs.

There are three Ash trees along Meetinghouse Road that are dead. Brian of Land Art said he will get an estimate for taking down the trees.

AUDIO TOUR

Verne Weideman was present at tonight's meeting to discuss an audio tour that he wrote and narrated. The audio tour covers the activities during the Battle of the Brandywine at Birmingham Hill, Thornbury Road and Sandy Hollow. Mr. Weideman said that he would like to post a 9 x 12 aluminum sign at both Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill describing the audio tour. The sign would include the QR code so people could access the tour. Mr. Weideman said he will pay for the signs and install them. RPOS discussed possible

locations for the signs at both parks that would not interfere with the view at either park. Mrs. Siemer and Mr. Weideman agreed to meet at the parks to discuss possible locations for the signs.

One concern that RPOS had about the audio tour is that Birmingham Township did not develop the tour, even though the sign for the tour will be located at the two Township parks. Therefore, if visitors to the parks had questions about the audio tour, they would assume they should call the Township office for more information. However, since the Township is not associated with the audio tour, the Township staff would most likely not be able to answer questions or concerns about the audio tour. Mr. Weideman said he could include a note on the sign informing visitors who the audio tour is sponsored by and that it is not sponsored by Birmingham Township.

BUDGET

RPOS discussed the budget for 2021. The budget for Sandy Hollow totals \$15,000 and includes:

- Maintenance (fertilizing, mowing, trimming, edging, weeding, mulching) - \$9,600
- Brush cutting along tree line - \$700
- Hazardous tree trimming/removal - \$1,000
- Dog Waste Station - \$1,976
- Fence maintenance - \$200
- Trail signs - \$500
- Leave No Trace - \$100
- Miscellaneous - \$224

The budget for Birmingham Hill totals \$11,000 and includes:

- Maintenance (fertilizing, mowing, trimming, edging, weeding, mulching) - \$6,850
- Trail maintenance/branch removal - \$500
- Hazardous tree trimming/removal - \$2,500
- Fence maintenance - \$300
- Trail sign - \$500
- Miscellaneous - \$350

Currently, the maintenance work is done by MAJIC. Although MAJIC continues to do an excellent job maintaining the two parks, RPOS must put out bids for the maintenance work proposed at the two parks for 2021.

One possible project RPOS has been discussing is the need for a new entry sign at Birmingham Hill. RPOS still has \$1,300 in the Birmingham Hill budget for 2020, which could cover a new entry sign. However, at this point in time, RPOS does not know what kind of signage Brandywine Conservancy has planned for Birmingham Hill, so the committee is not sure what it should include on a new entry sign. Mrs. Siemer said she will speak with Sheila Fleming of the Brandywine Conservancy about any signage that the Conservancy might be proposing for Birmingham Hill.

Another concern at Birmingham Hill is the number of people who walk dogs and do not always clean up after them. After a discussion, RPOS decided that a dog waste station is needed at the park and that the \$1,300 in the budget would help defray the cost. Therefore, Mr. Socash made a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that a

dog waste station be installed and maintained at Birmingham Hill. Mr. Rosenthal seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

RPOS also discussed the need for a new entry sign at Sandy Hollow. This is a project that RPOS might consider in 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

With the departure of Dave Shields to the Planning Commission, RPOS is still looking for a new member to take Mr. Shield's place. Mrs. Jensen has put a note about the vacancy on the Township website.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2020.

With no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen
RPOS Secretary