

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

**October 19, 2020**

Chairman Anne Siemer called the Zoom meeting of RPOS to order at 7:06 p.m. The following were in attendance:

Anne Siemer	Chairman, RPOS Committee
Chuck Feld	Vice-Chairman, RPOS Committee
Bob Socash	Member, RPOS Committee
Dan Hill	Member, Board of Supervisors
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

Absent from tonight's meeting was Member Jim Rosenthal.

**APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 MINUTES**

The minutes of the September 21, 2020 RPOS meeting were approved, as written; all in favor.

**BILLS**

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

**SANDY HOLLOW UPDATE**

Over the previous month, RPOS completed several maintenance projects at Sandy Hollow. Mrs. Siemer and Mr. Feld washed the interpretive signs at the park and rotated sign panels between Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill so that visitors to the two parks would have new signs to enjoy. They also realigned some of the fencing along S. New Street. Mrs. Jensen and her husband sanded and repainted the cannon. The chute on the dog waste station at the park was broken, but Mrs. Siemer said Cleven K9 fixed the chute recently when they were at the park maintaining the pet station.

RPOS received an email from former Board of Supervisors Chairman John Conklin. Mr. Conklin's email contained a forwarded email from a visitor to Sandy Hollow that noted that the entrance sign to the park was in disrepair. RPOS had been discussing the need to replace the entrance signs at both Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill. With the pandemic, and the fact that RPOS did not meet for several months, discussion on the entrance signs was put on hold.

At tonight's meeting, RPOS again discussed the entrance sign at Sandy Hollow, noting they have two options. The first is to have a sign panel made by Pannier, the company who has made the interpretive signs currently at the park. The second option is to purchase a less expensive sign, perhaps made of plastic, from a local company. The cost to have a sign made by Pannier would be about \$1,400 (frame and panel), but committee members agreed that a Pannier sign would look nicer and would last longer.

After a discussion, the committee decided to go with the Pannier option. Due to the cost of the sign and the funds left in the current RPOS budget, the committee decided to produce the sign in phases. With this in mind, Mr. Socash made a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that a new entrance sign be purchased from Pannier for

Sandy Hollow. The committee recommends that the sign frame, at a cost of about \$700, be purchased in 2020 and the sign panel, at a cost of about \$700, be purchased in 2021. Mr. Feld seconded the motion. The motion was approved; all in favor.

### **BIRMINGHAM HILL UPDATE**

Mrs. Siemer said that the Board of Supervisors, at their last meeting, approved the dog waste station at Birmingham Hill. The station will cost \$470 to install and will be maintained by Clevens K9 at a cost of \$19 per week. Mrs. Siemer will meet with Tracy of Clevens to discuss where to install the pet station at Birmingham Hill. Mrs. Siemer has also updated the Birmingham Hill budget to reflect the \$988 yearly cost for maintaining the pet station.

On October 10, Mrs. Siemer, her husband, Mr. Feld and Mr. Socash replaced six posts along the fencing at Birmingham Hill. It was a particularly challenging job because a few of the posts had been set in concrete. Mrs. Siemer noted that the dead ash trees along the trail will be taken down soon.

Mrs. Siemer notified Kevin Fryberger, Natural Resource Manager at the Brandywine Conservancy, about the pet waste station being installed at Birmingham Hill. Because RPOS would like to replace the entrance sign at Birmingham Hill, Mrs. Siemer asked Mr. Fryberger to read the current sign at the park and let her know if the Conservancy would approve the current wording if a new sign is obtained. RPOS also thought that instead of replacing the current sign with an expensive sign, perhaps they should install a temporary sign that could be replaced after the committee sees what kind of signage the Brandywine Conservancy has planned for the park.

### **BIRMINGHAM HILL MASTER PLAN**

The Brandywine Conservancy is planning to hold a public meeting, via Zoom, on the Birmingham Hill Master Plan. The Zoom meeting will be held on October 28 at 7 PM. Discussion of topics will probably include:

- The buildings that are currently being considered for demolition
- Trails planned for the property
- Plans for parking
- Plans to restore the meadows

There should be information on the Brandywine Conservancy's website concerning how to log into the Zoom meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Siemer met with Verne Weideman about the audio tour he has planned for Birmingham Hill and Sandy Hollow. He plans to install a sign at both parks with information about the audio tours. Mr. Weideman and Mrs. Siemer discussed the best location for the signs at the two parks.

Mrs. Siemer said that RPOS is still looking for a new member to fill the vacancy left by Dave Shields, who is now on the Township's Planning Commission.

Mrs. Siemer thanked the RPOS members for their continued hard work maintaining both Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill. Over the years, the committee has repaired and replaced countless fence rails and posts, spread mulch on the Birmingham Hill trail, developed and installed a number of interpretive signs at both parks, and refurbished the

cannon at Sandy Hollow. Board of Supervisors member Dan Hill attended tonight's Zoom meeting, and, speaking for the Board of Supervisors, thanked RPOS for their continued work at the two parks, noting that the Board is very grateful for their efforts.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2020.

With no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen  
RPOS Secretary