

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

May 17, 2021

Chairman Anne Siemer called the Zoom meeting of RPOS to order at 7:09 p.m. The following were in attendance:

Anne Siemer	Chairman, RPOS Committee
Chuck Feld	Vice-Chairman, RPOS Committee
Brian Bonkowski	Member, RPOS Committee
Kathleen Brecker	Member, RPOS Committee
Dan Hill	Member, Board of Supervisors
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

Absent from the meeting was Member Bob Socash.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 15, 2021 MINUTES

The minutes of the March 15, 2021 RPOS meeting were approved, as written; all in favor.

BILLS

A \$182 invoice has been submitted to the Township for supplies needed for work at Birmingham Hill, including timbers to stop the flow of water over the trail and cement to install the new entrance sign at Sandy Hollow.

MONARCH BUTTERFLY PRESENTATION

Lois Bryman, a resident of Birmingham Hunt, requested that the milkweed in certain parts of Sandy Hollow be allowed to grow, instead of being mowed during the summer. Ms. Bryman noted that Monarch butterflies rely on milkweed for laying their eggs. In addition, the caterpillars eat milkweed. Due to herbicides, pesticides, acid rain and invasive plants, the population of Monarchs is on the decline. Ms. Bryman asked that two sections along South New Street and one section along Birmingham Road at Sandy Hollow remain unmowed during the summer so that the milkweed can grow.

Mr. Feld noted that the reason the areas have been mowed in the past is because of the Canadian thistle, an invasive plant, that grows at Sandy Hollow. RPOS has been mowing the thistle before it goes to seed.

Mr. Feld said he can talk to the farmer who mows Sandy Hollow and perhaps the areas could be left unmowed if there isn't any thistle growing there. He also agreed to meet Ms. Bryman at Sandy Hollow so they could discuss which areas have milkweed and might therefore, be left unmowed. Mrs. Siemer added that RPOS will look into this matter and will revisit the issue at the June RPOS meeting.

BIRMINGHAM HILL UPDATE

At a spring workday at Birmingham Hill, RPOS members completed the following maintenance work:

- Installed pressure treated timber to preserve dirt along the Worth property from water erosion.

- Placed approximately 50 cubic yards of wood chips along the trail.
- Replaced several rails.

Mrs. Siemer said that there are several trees that have poison ivy growing up their trunks. Mr. Feld said he will spray the poison ivy. He also said that there are a couple of dogwoods that need to be removed because they are dying.

Mrs. Siemer noted that a branch fell near the bottom of the trail and took out a couple of rails. Brian of LandArt was going to remove the branch but when he got to the park, someone had already removed it. RPOS will replace the missing rails.

Mrs. Siemer received an email from Sheila Fleming about pet waste found on the Brandywine Conservancy's property. Mrs. Siemer said there is a dog waste station at Birmingham Hill. RPOS encourages visitors who walk their dogs at Birmingham Hill to use the pet waste station.

The Board of Supervisors accepted RPOS's recommendation to award the landscape bid for Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill to MAJIC, the lowest bidder.

SANDY HOLLOW UPDATE

Earlier in the spring, RPOS completed the following maintenance work at Sandy Hollow:

- Reassembled split rail fence along New Street
- Installed new entrance sign
- Removed wood post at the parking lot
- Cut down old sign frame.

NEW BUSINESS

The Brandywine Conservancy is proposing to create a trail along Wylie Road that would connect to the existing parking lot and public trail on Birmingham Road. This new Wylie Road trail segment would extend from the existing trail's southeastern-most point along Birmingham Road (where it touches the Wylie Road ROW) south along Wylie Road to a point roughly opposite Firethorne Drive.

RPOS just received an email concerning this proposal from the Brandywine Conservancy and therefore, committee members haven't had much time to think about it. One concern Mrs. Brecker had is that Wylie Road is dangerous and has a bad curve with little sight distance at the curve. There is no shoulder around the curve. Other concerns were that Wylie Road is well traveled with a fair amount of vehicular traffic, the Township will have to mow the property if a trail is installed which will increase maintenance costs and maintaining another trail will significantly increase the workload of RPOS. However, RPOS members also agreed that trails are a nice addition to the Township. Mrs. Siemer said she will see if someone from the Conservancy could attend the June RPOS meeting to discuss the concerns RPOS has with developing a trail along Wylie Road.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2021.

With no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen
RPOS Secretary