

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

October 17, 2016

Chairman Siemer called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. in the Township Building. The following were in attendance:

Anne Siemer	Chairman, RPOS Committee
Jim Rosenthal	Vice-Chairman, RPOS Committee
Chuck Feld	Member, RPOS Committee
Jim Kelican	Member, RPOS Committee
Mike Shiring	Member, Board of Supervisors
Judy Jensen	Secretary, RPOS Committee

Absent from the meeting was Member Michael Langer.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2016 MINUTES

The minutes of the September 19, 2016 RPOS meeting were approved, as written; all in favor.

BILLS

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

BIRMINGHAM HILL UPDATE

Mr. Feld noted that a great deal of maintenance work is needed on the Birmingham Trail, along Meetinghouse Road, with regards to downed tree branches and fence posts that need to be replaced. RPOS members scheduled a workday on October 29 to take care of these maintenance issues.

Mr. Feld also said he has been spraying and removing poison ivy along the trail. However, there is still more poison ivy present. Mr. Shiring said RPOS might wish to consider suggesting to the Board of Supervisors that someone be hired to remediate the poison ivy. Mr. Feld said he will contact Mark at MAJIC Landscaping to see if anyone at the landscaping firm is licensed to spray poison ivy and if they can take care of the problem. If not, he will ask Mark if he knows of someone locally who is licensed to spray poison ivy.

SANDY HOLLOW UPDATE

Due to the rapid growth of Canadian thistle at Sandy Hollow, Mr. Feld said he feels the edges of the trail along S. New Street should be mowed with a bushhog twice each summer. The thistle could be mowed this fall, and then after that every June and September. Mr. Feld said this will help keep the Canadian thistle from taking over. Chairman Siemer said she will contact the gentleman who farms Sandy Hollow and inquire as to whether he owns a bushhog and whether he can mow the thistle.

Chairman Siemer said the newest interpretive sign has been installed at Sandy Hollow. She would like the Township to send Jim Serum a thank you note for donating the photographs that were used on the sign and will email Township Secretary/Treasurer Quina Nelling about sending a letter to Mr. Serum thanking him for his generosity.

NEW BUSINESS

Concerning the Cacchio property, Mr. Shiring noted that the Township received approval from the American Battlefield Protection Program. Mrs. Nelling has submitted the government grant application online. The application has been accepted.

Chairman Siemer noted that at the September RPOS meeting, committee members discussed ways in which the Cacchio property might be used. At last month's meeting, RPOS members agreed that interpretive signs, benches, a trail and a parking lot could be developed on the property. They also thought that part of the property could be developed into different habitats, such as a wildflower meadow. Interpretive signs could be developed that focus on habitat and plantings, as well as history. Mr. Shiring said that the Brandywine Conservancy might have young planners who could help plan the Cacchio property with RPOS input. Chairman Siemer said RPOS could also ask Shiela Fleming of the Conservancy for assistance with the planning.

Also, Mr. Shiring said that the Board of Supervisors is keeping the budget for the Cacchio property at \$15,000 for 2017.

The next RPOS meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2016.

With no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jensen
RPOS Secretary