

Upper Pottsgrove Township  
Open Space Committee  
March 10, 2009 Meeting Minutes

In attendance were Chairman Herbert Miller, Dennis Elliott, Nancy Toothaker, Marie Novack and Peter Dolan. Also in attendance were Russell Noll, Commissioner, Renee Spaide, Commissioner, Eric Brinser, RETTEW, Lauren Zumbrun, RETTEW, Tony Doyle, Lower Pottsgrove, Tom Troutman, Lower Pottsgrove, Bob Thomas, New Hanover, Rodney Hawthorne, Lower Pottsgrove, Allyson Elliott, Lower Pottsgrove, Jake Lea, Montgomery County Lands Trust, Janice Troutman, Chris Miller, Susan Marriott, Samuel Ott, Kimberly Kelly, Zachary Kelly, Debra Bender, Jim Bender, Patty Smith, Robert Grim, Mark McClelland, Reginald Leister, David Crock, Susan Thompson, Jill Ludy, Evan Brant, *Mercury*, William Moffett, Police Chief, Frank Quinter, Public Works Director and Jack Layne, Township Manager.

**I. Call to Order:** Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at 7:08 P.M.

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Ms. Toothaker moved that the February 10, 2009 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Mr. Elliott seconded this motion. The motion was approved.

**III. Reports:**

**A. Water Congress Program**

Chairman Miller provided a brief overview of the Water Congress Program that he recently attended at Montgomery County Community College. He stated that during this Program there was discussion on future forecasts projecting that there would be a water shortage in Pennsylvania and how this prediction further illustrates the importance of our efforts to protect and save open space.

**IV. Old Business**

**A. Proposed Prince/Austerberry Master Plan**

Mr. Brinser and Ms. Zumbrun began discussion on the efforts by RETTEW to develop a Master Plan for the Prince/Austerberry Park. They provided a general overview of the proposed ideas and plans for developing this park area. Some of the major points made by Mr. Brinser included the following:

- That the proposed park area would be a passive park area
- That the limited access to this park area was a problem
- There were three wetland crossings on this property
- That there was no good access for parking into the park due to the topography of the area
- How to best utilize the existing fishing pond needed to be resolved
- He provided Sketch 1 of a proposed park design which depicted that the fishing pond would have a handicapped ramp, a small pavilion and shelter area for temporary cover

- He discussed how the proposed Sprogels Run Trail might connect to the proposed Pottstown Bike Trail.
- He provided Sketch 2 that showed the Sprogels Run Trail coming up to the Hollenbach Park area.

Comments from attendees and RETTEW included the following:

- Chairman Miller stated that the meeting that he had attended at the Morris Arboretum clearly showed that Montgomery County is interested in the Sprogels Run Trail.
- He added that crime and litter are not really a problem on trails based on the information he had obtained on trails.
- Mr. Hawthorne suggested that parking for the proposed park could be provided at the North End Shopping Center, which is located adjacent to the proposed park area.
- Chairman Miller stated that the park should be closed at a certain time.
- Chairman Miller stated that Sketch 2 was not a good design for a proposed parking lot. He added that the pond dries up during the summer.
- Mr. Brinser stated that drainage improvements could be recommended to the pond that might prevent it from drying up.
- It was noted that the trail would go through a flood plain.
- Ms. Thompson suggested that easy access parking be provided for the handicapped even if for only 2 parking spaces.
- Mr. Brinser stated that fencing and screening could be utilized to help to keep people on the trail.
- Mr. Moffett stated that there were safety concerns with pedestrians crossing State Route 663 (Charlotte) and that a cross walk would be recommended.
- Mr. Thompson stated that the Willow Grove and Perkioman Trails were heavily utilized and that the more that the trails are used the safer the trail.
- Mr. Crock suggested that the area be kept as a natural park.
- Chairman Miller suggested that the trail be approximately 10 feet wide.
- It was noted that there were objections to people parking on Glendale.
- Mr. Brinser stated that noise concerns had to be considered for the designated parking lot area and that there would be no picnic area, no playground and that this park would not be promoted as a destination location once the Sprogels Run Trail was continued.
- Ms. Thompson stated that the Township could promote the use of the pavilion that is located at Heather Place Park.
- Mr. Brinser stated that the park could close at dusk and that low level lighting could be provided near the parking lot area for protection.
- Mr. Dolan stated that proposed Sketch 1 and 2 could be merged. He added that he saw that there could be high demand for using the pond area if trout was placed in the pond.

- Mr. Dolan stated that parking could be provided off of Orlando Road.
- Ms. Toothaker stated that efforts must be implemented that would stop pollutants from reaching the streams.
- Vice Chairman Elliott emphasized that the Township had spent over two years to work on this property and that we want to make certain that there is adequate citizen input as to how this property should be developed.
- Mr. Brinser stated that the Master Plan would be discussed at the March 23, 2009 Open Space Committee meeting and at the April 6, 2009 Board of Commission meeting.
- Ms. Ludy suggested that the trail could be on one side of Sprogels Run.

Ms. Toothaker moved that the Committee move into Executive Session at 8:54 P.M. Vice Chairman Elliott seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**V. New Business**

There was no New Business

**VI. Adjourn**

Ms. Toothaker moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:17 P.M. Vice Chairman Elliott seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**Next Meeting 7:00 P.M., Monday, March 23, 2009**

Submitted by Jack Layne, Township Manager