

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION BOARD
May 11, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Board members present were Chairwoman Sue Thompson, Jill Ludy, Dennis Elliott and Greg Churach. Ralph Freed was absent. Also present were Elwood Taylor, President Board Commissioners, Herbert Miller, Commissioner, Mark McClelland, Samuel Ott, Susan Marriott, Rich Wood, Greg Maynard, Eric Maynard and Jack Layne, Township Manager.

1. Call to Order

Chairwoman Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

2. New Business

A. Presentation by Rich Wood, Regional Manager and Regional Trails Manager for the Montgomery County Planning Commission

Mr. Wood began his presentation by stating that he was responsible for overseeing from 125 to 130 miles of regional trails in Montgomery County. He noted that motorized vehicles are not allowed on these trails at the present time. He emphasized that you must have a design prior to constructing trails and that the construction of trails could take years. He stated that pedestrian trails do not increase crime but increase property values and provide connections for respective communities. He added that trails enhance health and wellness and connect people and communities and help to get people off of congested roadways. He emphasized that prior to deciding to construct a trail you should have funding for maintaining the trails you propose to construct. He stated that the Sprogels Run was not ADA accessible since it had woodchips. He added that the use of woodchips on trails inhibits the ability to place bicycles on those trails. He stated that the lower section of the Sprogels Run Trail had woodchips that would tend to be washed away and that there was debris that needed to be cleaned up. He stated that the woodchips would need to be replaced when they would be washed away, that the vegetation growth needed to be controlled and that there were storm water issues that needed to be addressed. He then stated that the central section of the Sprogels Run Trail would cross through the McClelland property. He stated that the issue of how to cross over or under Mangers Mill Road from this area needed to be determined. He stated that a bridge could be built to cross over Sprogels Run and that this bridge would have to be professionally engineered and might cost from \$20,000 to \$200,000. He emphasized that the span of the bridge would impact on the cost of the bridge. Mr. Layne stated that PENNDOT had been contacted regarding the crossing of Mangers Mill Road and that the initial answer was no with respect to crossing over the roadway but that they would soon be meeting with PENNDOT representatives to discuss the possibility of crossing under Mangers Mill Road. Mr. Wood stated that one option might be to cross over Fox Run as opposed to Sprogels Run. Mr. Elliott stated that he and

other Township representatives have contacted State legislative representatives requesting that existing laws be revised to allow for funds now earmarked for acquiring open space be also utilized for the construction and maintenance of open space and pedestrian trails. Mr. McClelland suggested that the State be contacted to request that the speed limit on Maugers Mill Road be reduced. Mr. Wood stated that there is a new street crossing notification device that costs approximately \$16,000 and signals only when an individual is crossing the street. Mr. Wood stated that the Sprogels Run Trail could connect to Hollenbach and Mocharniuk Parks, if necessary. Ms. Ludy added that a walking trail could be placed around Hollenbach Park.

B. Trail Crossing Options

Mr. Miller stated that he had had a recent discussion with Matt Dallas regarding the expansion of the trail onto his property area.

Mr. Miller stated that having the trail go from Fox Run to Hollenbach and Mocharniuk might be feasible.

Mr. Miller stated that it might be desirable to consider placing a trail crossing at the top of the hill near the Grim property and Swenck Road.

Mr. Miller added that he would be further discussing this matter with Jim Lafevre.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Elliott moved that the March 9, 2011 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Ms. Ludy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Reports

A. Chairwoman Thompson stated that the Public Works Department should do a better job of line-trimming the areas that they were mowing. She added that the trail area at Mocharniuk Park needed to be widened by those mowing that area.

B. Mr. Miller stated that he and Mr. Layne had met with Ronald Centofanti to address his complaints regarding the use of air horns at Hollenbach Park during soccer games and practices, move the porta-potty from its present location and the large number of people utilizing Hollenbach Park. Mr. Miller stated that the Township responded that we would speak with respective personnel regarding the use of air horns, that the porta-potty would be moved the next day and that the large volume of people at Hollenbach Park was a direct result of the rivalry between Pottsgrove and Boyertown who had played each other recently at that location in a soccer match.

C. Mr. Elliott requested that members of the Board and other interested residents support efforts to amend House Bill 951 to allow for funding designated for open space acquisition be utilized for open space and trail construction and maintenance.

5. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

6. New Business (Cont.)

C. Ms. Ludy requested that the trash be emptied at Hollenbach Park more often, especially following lacrosse games.

D. Mr. Miller stated that Comcast employees and volunteers did a very nice job of opening up the trail area at Mocharniuk Park.

E. Mr. Miller recommended that inverted branches from fallen trees be utilized as benches in Township park areas.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Ludy moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:55 P.M. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Next meeting scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, July 13, 2010