

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION BOARD
March 14, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Board members present were Chairwoman Sue Thompson, Jill Ludy, Greg Churach, Dennis Elliott and Ralph Freed. Also present were Rebecca Moussa, Badrieh Moussa, Gary Drenzo, Mitch Mitchell, Steve Rinda, Pete Eisenbrown with LTL Consultants and Jack Layne, Township Manager.

1. Call to Order

Chairwoman Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Churach moved that the February 15, 2012 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Mr. Freed seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Public Comment

- Mr. Dorenzo, who is with the Pottsgrove School District, thanked the Township for permitting the School District to utilize Hollenbach Park (Park). He stated that the 7th and 8th grades play soccer at the Park during the fall and that 7th and 8th grade girls play lacrosse in the spring. Chairwoman Thompson requested that there was a lot of trash that can be found in the Park that needs to be picked by those using the Park. Mr. Churach asked if there was a need for insurance for the Pottsgrove School Cross Country runners that utilize the Sprogels Run Trail. Mr. Dorenzo responded that the individual runners and the School District provide insurance coverage for the Cross Country runners. Therefore, the Township would not have to provide insurance coverage for these runners.
- Mr. Mitchell, who is with the Pottsgrove Little League, stated that his League had 300 registered members. He stated that parents and players would be cleaning up the playing field area this Saturday. Chairwoman Thompson requested that the drinking fountain be turned on by Saturday.
- Ms. Rebecca Moussa, who is also with the Pottsgrove Little League, stated that the proposed concession stand would be an enhancement to the playing field area.
- Mr. Mitchell stated that the baseball season would begin on April 14th.
- Mr. Mitchell commented on how traveling baseball teams play a more serious type of baseball than the Little League does.
- Ms. Badrieh Moussa, Ms. Moussa's daughter, requested support from the Township in her effort to obtain a Girl Scout Silver Award. She requested that she needed to complete a project in the Township that met the requirements for the Girl Scout Silver Award and that she had until September 1, 2013 to complete this project. Ms. Ludy mentioned that her working on the Township's Community Day program might be a possible project.

4. Reports

A. Mr. Eisenbrown provided drawings for the proposed Sunset Park Sprogels Run Trail (Trail) enhancements and for the trail proposed along Snyder Road. He noted that the field survey for these areas had been completed and properly marked. He described the detailed drawings for the Trail. He commented on the parking lot, the pavilion and other areas identified on the drawings. Mr. Eisenbrown added that storm water flowing down Maugers Mill Road could be directed to flow into the main pond in Sunset Park in order to insure that adequate water levels were maintained. He stated the length of the Trail in Sunset Park was approximately 4,000 feet, that some of the Park was in a flood plain and that the proposed Trail area would be ADA compatible. He stated that the gate that had been installed to inhibit people from illegally dumping from Maugers Mill was located partially on the McClellan property. It was suggested that a fence should be constructed between the Township and the adjacent Alan Kratz property. Mr. Layne stated that he and Herbert Miller had met with the Jarad Hammaker who is striving to obtain Eagle Scout status by constructing two picnic benches for the Township for Sunset Park. Mr. Eisenbrown stated that the cost for providing the proposed improvements were projected at \$75,000 and that the Township had submitted a grant application requesting this funding. Mr. Layne added that the grant application was submitted to the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and that grant awards would not be designated until the fall of 2012.

Mr. Eisenbrown then spoke briefly on suggested revisions to the proposed pedestrian trail that would run along Snyder Road and through part of Matthew Dallas's property. He distributed copies of a drawing showing less of the trail area going onto Mr. Dallas's property than had been previously suggested. He added that easements would be needed from Mr. Dallas and Joan Kelly.

5. New Business

A. Update by Mr. Elliott

Mr. Elliott suggested that the Township invest in the purchase of a chipper as opposed to continuing to spend funds for outside contractors to provide tree and limb removal services. Mr. Elliott stated that a 6 inch chipper could easily cost between \$8,000 and \$10,000 and up to \$150,000 for a large chipper. Following additional discussion on this matter, Ms. Ludy moved that the Board recommend that the Township purchase a 6 inch or larger chipper and that if it is a used chipper that it be inspected by a qualified person/firm prior to completing the purchase. Mr. Churach seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Mr. Elliott recommended that the posts on the park signs be painted.

Mr. Elliott added that \$30 million in State funding might be withdrawn for land conservation.

B. Community Day

Chairwoman Thompson spoke briefly on a proposal received from Hopewell Community Church to participate in the Township's 2012 Community Day. The Board stated that this proposal should be further discussed. It was suggested that the Hillbilly Barbeque, petting zoo and moon-bouncing be provided during Community Day.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7. Adjournment

Ms. Ludy moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:42 P.M. Mr. Churach seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Next meeting scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, May 9, 2012