

**OPEN SPACE & RECREATION BOARD**  
**May 8, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Board members present were Chairwoman Sue Thompson, Dennis Elliott, Greg Church and Ralph Freed. Jill Ludy was absent. Also present were Herbert C. Miller, Jr., Commissioner, Dave Kraybill, the Director of Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation, Jinsok Kraybill and Jack Layne, Township Manager.

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Presentation**

Mr. Kraybill provided an overview regarding the proposed Regional Recreation Coordinator position. Mr. Kraybill stated that the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation (PAHWF) had formed a relationship with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PADCNR). He stated that PAHWF had obtained PADCNR funding for capital projects. He stated that the Regional Recreation Coordinator would provide a number of beneficial services. These services include grant writing, locating park resources and providing ongoing professional recreation support and consultation. Mr. Elliott thanked Mr. Kraybill for the grant assistance provided by his agency to Upper Pottsgrove Township.

Mr. Elliott inquired as to why PADCNR could utilize tax funding to both acquire and maintain open space and pedestrian trails while Pennsylvania municipalities cannot utilize tax revenue that is presently designated for open space acquisition for the maintenance of open space and pedestrian trails. Mr. Kraybill responded that he did not have the answer to Mr. Elliott's question but did state that the Regional Recreation Coordinator could possibly serve as an advocate for authorizing municipalities to utilize tax funds in this manner. Mr. Kraybill stated that he was hopeful that six local municipalities would initially support the endeavor to hire a Regional Recreation Coordinator.

Mr. Kraybill stated that a Regional Board would select and review the applications for the Regional Recreation Coordinator position. Mr. Freed expressed his concern that other municipalities might attempt to guide Upper Pottsgrove Township with respect to open space policies while Upper Pottsgrove Township has done an exemplary job in preserving open space to date. Mr. Miller requested that Mr. Kraybill contact State Representative Marcy Toepel regarding the endeavor to have municipalities have the ability to utilize tax funding for open space maintenance. Mr. Kraybill emphasized that the Regional Recreation Coordinator would serve as an advocate and consultant for the municipalities that he/she would represent. Mr. Kraybill stated that the endeavor to approve the Regional Recreation Coordinator position should be approved by six municipalities by June 2013. Chairwoman Thompson emphasized that a Regional Recreation Coordinator could

significantly help efforts to better coordinate local sports activities, such as baseball, soccer, lacrosse, etc.

**3. Old Business**

- Chairwoman Thompson stated that Andrew Bayless had recently met with Mr. Miller and Mr. Layne regarding his proposed project to place arrows along the Fox Hill Trail with a colored key code delineating the distance traveled on this Trail.
- Mr. Elliott emphasized how abandoned houses and derelict properties were a significant problem in the Township.
- Chairwoman Thompson stated that there were many project opportunities for senior high school projects at Pottsgrove High School. She added that the contact person for these project opportunities was Jill Ludy who would contact Chairwoman Thompson regarding the coordination of the Open Space and Recreation Board with interested students.

**4. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Layne noted that the March 13, 2013 meeting minutes should be revised on page 3 to state "...Following additional discussion on the proposed trail signs, Mr. Elliott moved that one Fox Hill sign should be placed on Mangers Mill Road and the other sign on N. Hanover Road." Therefore, Mr. Churach moved that the March 13, 2013 meeting minutes be approved as amended to reflect the revision stated by Mr. Layne. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**5. Reports**

- Mr. Churach reported that he had recently attended an enlightening course on planning that was provided over 3 evenings for 3 hours each evening that was provided by Montgomery County Planning.
- Mr. Churach and stated that the signs located at Snyder and Schwenk Roads had been run over and requested that the Police Department closely monitor this situation.

**6. Executive Session**

The Open Space and Recreation Board went into Executive Session to discuss real estate at 8:30 P.M.

The Open Space and Recreation Board came out of Executive Session at 8:46 P.M.

**3. Old Business (Continued)**

**Discussion on the recently completed expansion of the Sprogels Run Pedestrian Trail**

Mr. Miller stated that the Township was waiting for PENNDOT to allow for a parking lot to be placed at the top of Mangers Mill Road. He added

*that Richard Mingey would be providing 50 feet of access to allow for this parking area to be developed that would park from three to four cars. Mr. Miller stated that Mr. Mingey would be putting a parking area at the Prout Farm. He also stated that a pedestrian trail could connect to Cherry Tree and eventually connect to the Hilsee property.*

**7. New Business**

- Chairwoman Thompson requested to see a map of the Lefever property.

**8. Public Comment**

There was no Public Comment.

**9. Adjournment**

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

**Next meeting scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, July 10, 2013**