

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION BOARD
September 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Board members present were Chairwoman Sue Thompson, Jill Ludy, Greg Churach and Ralph Freed. Dennis Elliott was absent. Also present were Keith Kehl, Chloe Klaus, Danielle Buchanar, Andrew Huer, Herbert C. Miller, Jr., Commissioner and Jack Layne, Township Manager.

1. Call to Order

Chairwoman Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Churach moved that the July 10, 2013 and August 27, 2013 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Mr. Freed seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

3. Public Comment

Mr. Kehl inquired as to what was the intent of the Township with respect to open space. Chairwoman Thompson stated that the intent was to preserve open space. Mr. Kehl stated that he objected to the Township allowing for sewer pipes to be placed under Township open space. He added that the sewer lines that were placed on his property eventually killed some of the trees on his property. He further stated that the placement of sewer pipes under open space land has impacted negatively on the health of the trees in those areas. Mr. Churach emphasized to Mr. Kehl that some of those trees might not have been very healthy and were on the verge of dying and that the Township will endeavor to replant trees that have died on open space land areas.

4. New Business

A. Discussion and possible action regarding a proposal to plant trees in Township parks

Ms. Klaus, who served as the spokesperson for the student organization entitled Pottsgrove Spark the Wave, spoke on their desire to plant trees in the Township's park areas. They stated that they would like to plant trees at Sunset Park, Sussell Park and along the Goose Run Trail. Mr. Churach stated that the optimal time to plant trees is in the fall. He further stated that due to this fact Spark the Wave should focus on planting trees in the fall of 2014. The Board suggested that Ms. Klaus consider utilizing a professional landscaper to assist in the selection and planting of designated trees. Ms. Klaus noted that there were 30 students in Spark the Wave and that they could plant approximately 200 trees in Township parks. Chairwoman Thompson suggested the planting of Dogwood Trees and Mr. Churach suggested Evergreen Trees. Ms. Ludy then moved that the Township support the endeavor by Spark the Wave to plant trees in designated Township park areas. Mr. Freed seconded this motion. Comments provided prior to voting to approve this motion were that these trees should be planted in September

2014, it should be organized, they should contact neighboring high schools and clubs not involved in this process, plaques could be provided to people who donate towards this endeavor, this project will be followed by the Board and Spark the Wave should update the Township periodically. The motion was then approved.

B. Discussion and possible action regarding the proposed placement of Geocache

The Board discussed a proposal from Janice Vasko to place a geocache on the new Fox Hill Trail. Following discussion by the Board on this proposal, Mr. Churach moved that the Township send a letter to Ms. Vasko stating the support for this proposal by the Township. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ludy. It was noted that the letter to Ms. Vasko should note that the costs for this endeavor would be paid by Ms. Vasko and not the Township and that the Police Department should be notified as to where the geocache would be located. The motion was then approved.

5. Reports

- Commissioner Miller informed Spark the Wave representatives in attendance that the Township had periodic clean-up days that they were welcome to participate in. He also stated that Turnberry was the only development where someone has yet to volunteer to participate in any of the Township's clean-up efforts. Ms. Ludy responded that the Turnberry residents might be more willing to participate in these clean-up efforts if the Township provided better landscaping maintenance services for their subdivision. She added that the Township did not mow the Turnberry open space area on a consistent basis and that trash was located in an area where the grass was more than two feet high.
- Mr. Layne noted that copies of a proposed 2014 Open Space Fund Budget were provided for the review by the Board.

6. Old Business

A. Discussion and possible update regarding Community Day

Chairwoman Thompson began discussion on the upcoming October 5, 2013 Community Day activities:

- Board members stated that they would contact local restaurants/mobile food firms to request their participation in Community Day. These restaurants/mobile food firms included Fujiyama, Applebee's, Hillbilly, Sunflower Café, etc.
- Activities proposed for Community Day include pony rides, Making Music, Cat Lady, POWER, Duck Pond and Balloons.
- Senator Mensch and State Representative Painter are scheduled to attend.
- Mr. Layne stated that he would contact PCTV to request that they promote this event via a public service announcement.

B. General comments

- Commissioner Miller stated that he had coordinated the turning of mulch at Heather Place Park adjacent to the swing sets.
- Chairwoman Thompson stated that all the vines had not been cut at Sunset Park.
- Ms. Ludy noted that the grass needed to be mowed at Turnberry and that there were concerns with blinking lights.
- Commissioner Miller asked the Board to suggest a name for the new Trail area. Mr. Churach suggested the Prout Farm Trail. Following a brief discussion on this matter, Mr. Churach moved that the new trail be entitled the Prout Farm Trail. Mr. Freed seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
- Chairwoman Thompson noted that the dog-potties needed to be filled.

7. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Ludy moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:35 P.M. Mr. Churach seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Next meeting scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, November 13, 2013