

**Minutes of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board
Upper Pottsgrove Township**

March 10, 2015

A meeting of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, at the Upper Pottsgrove Township Administrative Offices; 1409 Farmington Avenue. Those present were Matt Dallas, Nancy Toothaker, Dennis Elliott and Charles Note. Also present were Township Manager Carol R. Lewis, Commissioner Martin Schreiber, Ken Hamilton and Eric Miller. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Matt Dallas.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Those present pledged allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – A motion by N.Toothaker, seconded by C. Note and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2015, meeting as presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

POTTSTOWN HEALTH AND WELLNESS PARK CONTEST – C. Lewis explained to the Board that Pottstown Health and Wellness would be once again having their park contest. It will be rolling out for June. The Board needs to decide which park they want to feature and what they want to use the money on should they win. M. Dallas asked for ideas. Eric Miller, Pottsgrove Little League, mentioned that they got an estimate from Musco Lighting to light the ball field. They are also looking at getting cheap artificial grass to do the infield; it makes it more attractive and lightens the maintenance. Prices are coming in at \$.50 a square foot vs. \$4.00 a square foot. He then asked for permission to skim the infield due to the fact that it is hard to get a level playing field. The will need infield dirt. A motion by C. Note, seconded by N. Toothaker and unanimously carried to authorize the Little League to skim the infield. It was suggested that they check with Public Works Director, Frank Quinter. E. Miller then advised the Board that they had their registration and 243 children registered. This is down 14% which is on par with other leagues in the area. They will be scheduling the porta-potties to be delivered next week and submitting their schedule. He mentioned that they need to work closer with the Pottsgrove Baseball Organization, they accidentally got locked out of their shed. A work weekend is set for March 21, 2015. He also advised the Board that they will not be installing a second batting cage; they are splitting the 75' one that is already built. E. Miller then asked the Board if they had a chance to review their banner proposal which was submitted. The program is going well at West. The signs are mesh so that they get 40% wind pass through. They are 3' high and are taken down when not in season. A motion by D. Elliott, seconded by N. Toothaker and unanimously carried to approve the program. In response to a question from D. Elliott, E. Miller said they would put up a sign in center field that says "Welcome to Upper Pottsgrove Parks and Open Space." This will be donated by Pottsgrove Little League. Lastly, he told the Board that some younger kids will be playing at Kulp Field to get some experience in dugouts and such.

OLD BUSINESS:

REPORTS/PROJECT UPDATES:

Ken Hamilton, SAVE Alliance Director, was present for an update on the Arboretum. Pottsgrove School District applied for an award through Channel 6 News. If they win a \$5,000 donation will be given to the Arboretum for the Children's Forrest. He next told the Board that he presented at a conference and they selected as their project to plan the low ropes course. As part of the project they will create design, fund raising and market and write educational plan for the course. The low ropes

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course will be taken down

when not in use. The goal is to become a center for leadership training for youth and businesses. Next, Ken Hamilton told the Board that they have started the PennWoods Trail. Invasives are being cleared and 87 trees and shrubs have been ordered to be planted along the trail. A cedar archway will be installed at both ends of the trail. Ken Hamilton will be applying for a DCNR grant for the house to install a handicap bathroom and an educational resource room to display open space in the township. D. Elliott suggested that he talk to Dulcie Flaraty from Schuylkill Heritage River Society.

K. Hamilton passed out a list of programs that they will be doing in the upcoming year. They will be doing a mix of free and paid events. There will be two weeks of summer camp run by interns or students and also some adult programs. Camps are from 9:00 AM to Noon. For the Pottstown Challenge they have reached \$3,900 of the \$5,000 goal. They have until March 31, 2015, to finish raising the money. Next, Ken Hamilton asked permission to do a crowd sourcing signs experiment at Prout Farm, Sussell Park and the Althouse Arboretum. This would have a frame on which people could put their media devices and take a picture of the park. These photos would go into an Instagram account and then approved by him before going live. This will create a time lapse video of the parks throughout the seasons. The structures at Prout Farm and Sussell Park will be up for one year. The structures at the Althouse Arboretum will be up for three years. A motion by C. Note, seconded by N. Toothaker and unanimously carried to authorize the project. Lastly, K. Hamilton explained that they had an electronic recycling event and they did fill the trailer. They got 30 to 40 items.

SNYDER ROAD TRAIL UPDATE – The bidding of the Dallas portion of the Snyder Trail is in process but has been moved back one month due to weather complications.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ORDINANCES- D. Elliott went over recommendations by Herb Miller. There were concerns related to metal detecting as they do not want people digging in the ground. N. Toothaker felt this was already covered under C-6 but the portion will be expanded to include no digging. The Board discussed ice skating and wading; they want to allow these activities.

It was suggested that a note be added to the rules signs that all activities shall be done at your own risk. A motion by C. Note, seconded by N. Toothaker and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that they approve the Open Space and Recreation Ordinance as presented.

BOARD COMMENTS: - D. Elliott presented a mockup of the signs to go in the park. It is large and weather resistant and so would not need as many signs. The Board discussed how the signs would be installed. The Board agreed that they would like the signs smaller no larger than 18 x 12. They also discussed the wording and the size of the wording. No Hunting or Trapping should be one line. And Welcome To should be the largest lettering. It was suggested that the corners be rounded to help with wind.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: - M. Schreiber advised everybody that the Rubbish Brigade will be meeting on April 11, 2015, and invited them to attend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The Board adjourned at 8:42 P.M. to discuss property acquisition. They reconvened at 8:58 P.M. A motion by D. Elliott, seconded by C. Note and unanimously carried to

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recommend to the Board of Commissioners that the Township pursue an appraisal of the Shontz property

for purpose of an acquisition or a conservation easement.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM by consensus of all those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol R. Lewis, Township Manager