

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

July 28, 2015

A meeting of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, July 28, 2015, at the Upper Pottsgrove Township Administrative Offices; 1409 Farmington Avenue. Those present were Charles Note, Chris Delp, Nancy Toothaker and Herbert Miller, Jr., Commissioner Liaison. Also present were Ken Hamilton of the Green Allies with interns Evalyn Aguire and Emily Saravo. Commissioner Martin Schreiber and Township Manager Carol R. Lewis were also in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chris Delp.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - A motion by C. Note seconded by H. Miller and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2015 meeting as presented.

POND ANALYSIS STUDY – John Phelps from Solitude Lake Management presented the results of the pond study. All ponds appear to be healthy with some algae management needed, especially at the Sussell 1 and 2 ponds. He presented options for completing this kind of work and other pond management. He does not feel that any of the ponds need dredging at this time although Sussell pond 2 is very shallow. It depends on what the Board wants to get from the ponds. For the most part, the Board just wants to ensure the health of the ponds and encourage a natural environment. J. Phelps reported that Sunset pond has a very large population of goldfish. If the Board wanted to stock the pond with bass, they would have enough food for the foreseeable future. He also advised the Board that they do some pro bono work so that, if they have a project such as tree planting and things like that, they will muster their volunteers and come help. The Board thanked him for his work and advised they will stay in touch.

OLD BUSINESS:

SAVE ALLICANE FOUNDATION - Projects and Programs – E. Acquire and E. Saravo are twelfth grade volunteers at the Althouse Arboretum. They presented upcoming activities at the Arboretum. There will be an Evening of Orienteering held on August 10th, Wilderness Explorers on August 21st, Sunset Hike/campfire on August 29th, a Grand Opening event on September 26th and a Night Hike on October 16th. Ken Hamilton explained the logistics of each event, especially the grand opening which includes the Sprogel's Run Trail 5K Run and Fun Walk. He also advised the Board that they will be participating in Community Days on October 3rd where they will have a booth and a game for the children. They will be holding a bird walk through the Arboretum and Sussell Park on October 4th. This activity will be ongoing as there are two bird experts who will be leading these walks. On November 14th, they will be planting over 100 trees in the Penn's Woods and will need lots of volunteers. Lastly, the volunteers at the Arboretum would like to have a laser tag tournament on November 7th. Motion by C. Note seconded by N. Toothaker and unanimously carried to approve all activities for the Arboretum.

NEW BUSINESS:

COMMUNITY YARD SALE – Michelle Reddick has agreed to coordinate this activity along with her daughter-in-law Holly Gauger. Reservations are coming in so it is believed the event will take place.

LONG RANGE PLANNING – ASH TREE MANAGEMENT – C. Lewis reported on the condition of the ash trees in Upper Pottsgrove Township and the emerald ash borer. This is going to be a very large project for the Township to handle as there are a lot of ash trees in Upper Pottsgrove Township, more so than in surrounding townships. They will be looking to manage trees in open

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space areas and along roads and anywhere that the public could be impacted by a fallen tree. If a tree is in the middle of the woods, it is going to be allowed to die, fall and become habitat. The other option in the public spaces is to take the trees down as they die which can be very costly at a cost of approximately \$200-\$800 per tree. The Township can choose to treat the trees at a cost of \$500-\$800 per tree depending on the size of the tree. However, the treatments only lasts for two (2) years and are not guaranteed to work. The last option, which the Township is considering, would be to bring in a logger and harvest the ash trees for which they receive money and this would offset the cost of taking them down and reforestation. No matter which option is chosen, a community outreach and education program will be vital to the project for two reasons. One, so that property owners know what to expect on their own properties as many of them also have ash trees, and two, so that residents know what the Township is doing in the open space areas.

SNYDER ROAD TRAIL UPDATE – The trail has been installed by Dallas. There are some issues that are still being worked through especially a washout on the steep portion of the trail. The rest of the trail is proceeding and should be completed in time for the grand opening event in September.

POTTSTOWN HEALTH & WELLNESS PARK CONTEST – **use of money** – Hollenbach Park is in first place by over 2, 000 votes. It looks like we will win the \$10,000.00. The Board discussed uses for the money. C. Note said he would like to see a playground or something put in at Hollenbach Park for the families. The rest of the Board agreed that this might be a good idea. They will consider it and come back to the next meeting with ideas.

GRANTS – C. Lewis advised the Board that the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful grant was denied, but they have other grants opening all the time which she plans to apply for.

ATHLETIC FIELDS – C. Lewis advised that she is setting up a meeting in September for the Board of Commissioners, the Recreation Board and the Boards of all the clubs that use the Hillside fields including both baseball clubs and the pool.

MAINTENANCE – It was reported that the basketball nets at Heather Place Park need to be replaced. Motion by C. Note, second by N. Toothaker and unanimously carried to replace the nets once a year. A request was also received for a bocce court at Heather Place Park. The Board will consider this request.

BOARD COMMENTS – H. Miller advised the Board that the signs will be ordered. C. Note updated the Board on Community Days. He advised that the committee met once and will be meeting again, and that things are coming together to be a very nice event.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion by C. Note, seconded by N. Toothaker and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol R. Lewis, Township Manager