

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

November 10, 2015

A meeting of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, at the Upper Pottsgrove Township Municipal Complex. Those present were Matt Dallas, Charles, Note, Nancy Toothaker, Chris Delp and Herb Miller. Also present were Commissioner Elwood Taylor and Township Manager Carol R. Lewis. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Matt Dallas at which time those present pledged allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - A motion by N. Toothaker, seconded by C. Delp and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2015 meeting as presented. There was no meeting in October due to lack of a quorum.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ryan Vargo for his Eagle Scout project will be removing the playground equipment at St. Peter's Lutheran Church located at 564 Glasgow Street in Pottstown, PA. He will clean and refinish the equipment and then install it at Hollenbach Park in the spring. The Board discussed the size of the area for the equipment to go as we will use some of the grant money to purchase additional equipment. M. Dallas and C. Note volunteered to stake out the area. H. Miller reported that Mr. Maynard has to finish the boulders along the creek which he is going to rebar so they cannot be pushed into the river. He also carved the trail back three (3) to four (4) feet to allow for these activities. There is an Eagle Scout who will be doing a project to create a picnic area along the creek along with an outdoor classroom. His name is Alec Dorris. John J. Rogers will build a bridge over the stream at Hollenbach so that the cross country team can use it for their meets for his Eagle Project.

PROUT FARM TRAIL - **Jeff Fennelly, 1931 Irene Court**, was present at the meeting. He advised the Board that people are coming off the trail and coming up to the fence and through his property. They are also using a cul-de-sac and the pump station easement to access the trail. The Board discussed how they might alleviate his concerns. It was discussed putting a safety chain with authorized access signs up. C. Lewis will meet with him at a later date.

OLD BUSINESS:

ALTHOUSE ARBORETUM – They will be donating fifteen (15) trees to be planted at Sussell Park as well as furnishing four (4) volunteers to do the planting. M. Dallas volunteered to dig the holes. The areas are marked where the trees are to go. There will be trained volunteers at 10:00 AM on Saturday. Ken Hamilton submitted two proposals to the Open Space and Recreation Board for their consideration. The first one is to have a joint Community Day with the Arboretum 5K Run in September. The Board discussed having multiple venues for Community Day and also the possibility of changing the date. Michelle Reddick brought to the Board's attention that Community Day is done in conjunction with Hopewell Church and their Pastor Bruce Levengood is adamant that he would prefer it to be held at Heather Place Park. The Community Day Committee will meet in January and discuss the various possibilities for next year. The second proposal was for the possibility of a trail maintenance program done with interns. The cost to the Township would be slightly over \$5,000. The Board put off any decisions regarding the two proposals until later.

POTTSTOWN HEALTH AND WELLNESS PARK CONTEST USE OF MONEY – M. Dallas suggested that they use the money to make the park more inviting and get more and varied uses. Members of the Board will meet at Hollenbach Park to look at sites for possible playground equipment and picnic areas.

ASH TREE PROGRAM – C. Lewis reported on the Ash Tree Management Program. She is in the process of getting together a contract that will be bid out.

ATHLETIC FIELD – H. Miller reported that the timeframe for properly seeding the field has been missed. M. Schreiber suggested that the School should have some responsibility for maintenance of the field. D. Elliott volunteered to take this before the School Board.

MAINTENANCE – C. Lewis reported that complaints have been received regarding Heather Place Park; that the mulch is packed down and at the end of the one sliding board there is almost a two foot drop. They were waiting for spring to bring in new mulch; if they put it in now it will be compacted by the snow. It was suggested that maybe the mulch could be raked to loosen it up and to mound it properly under the sliding board.

BOARD COMMENTS – M. Dallas suggested that the Board do a better job of letting the Manager know if they cannot make it so they can be assured of having a quorum. The Board decided to continue having their meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM; however, no meeting will be held in December. D. Elliott inquired as to how much money was in Open Space. The Board discussed finances. They also discussed having fishing lessons and the rodeo sometime in March or May. N. Toothaker also suggested it would be nice to know how much money is available for projects so when something is suggested they would know whether or not it is feasible.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Holly Gauger supplied information for a local person who makes tables and benches at a very reasonable price.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion by N. Toothaker, seconded by D. Elliott, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol R. Lewis, Township Manager