

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

October 11, 2016

A meeting of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at the Upper Pottsgrove Township Administrative Offices; 1409 Farmington Avenue. Those present were Dennis Elliot, Chuck Note, Nancy Toothaker, Michelle Reddick and Chris Delp. Also present was Herbert C. Miller Jr., Commissioner Liaison, Ken Hamilton, Director of Althouse Arboretum and Carol R. Lewis, Township Manager.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion by N. Toothaker, seconded by C. Note and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of **August 9, 2016**, as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

SAVE ALLIANCE FOUNDATION PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS – K. Hamilton reported that they had a very successful 5k race. He commended the Fire Police for their help and said what a great job they did. He introduced Jess Brennan, who is their new Program Director at the Arboretum. He advised the Board that they have a Night Hike coming up this Friday and Saturday, October 14th and October 15th. A Haunted Woods will be held at the end of the month on October 29th. There will also be a Treasure 5k on November 12th. They advertised through fliers, Facebook and the website. They discussed how 5k would work. It will be a staggered start. Motion by C. Delp seconded by C. Note and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that they authorized these programs. Professor Dave Kratzer from Philadelphia University and three students were present to present a proposal for a wildlife blind at the Arboretum. Last year their students converted an RV to a traveling classroom. Professor Kratzer is an Architectural Professor. The students are designing a space to view nature next to a pond the Green Allies are digging and making. It will be a sheltered space. They plan to plant plants to attract birds. Professor Kratzer advised that their Landscape Program is also looking to help. Currently they have five architectural students and one engineering student working on the project. They discussed what type of material it may be made of. The blind will not be totally enclosed. It will hide the viewers from the birds and there will be a series of slits or holes at different levels to view through. There will be benches in the back for sitting on. It will be 20- 30 feet from the pond and the trail approaches from the rear.

Motion by N. Toothaker seconded by M. Reddick and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that they approve the project.

EAGLES SCOUT PROJECT UPDATES - The Board discussed the planting of the trees at Hollenbach Park. The proper way to plant the trees are with two stakes with an arbor tie one inch away from the trunk. There should also be a disc around the trunk to allow for water to collect.

PROGRAMS

POTTSTOWN HEALTH AND WELLNESS PARK CONTEST/KULP FIELD – The Board discussed charging a retainer until the end of the season for Kulp Field users. C. Delp had a picture after one of the games which he texted to the Manager. Participants are required to police the parking area, dugouts, fence line and field.

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SHINE 4 SAFE PLAY CAR SHOW – M. Reddick reported that there were 75 registered cars and 10 swap meet people. They raised over \$1500. They plan to make this an annual event. The Board discussed splitting the car show and the swap meet and discussed dates for the various events. It was also discussed whether a banner could be hung across Route 100 to promote programs going on in the Township. It was also suggested that a questionnaire be sent to participants to see where improvements might be made.

COMMUNITY DAYS – M. Reddick reviewed the activities. Chairman Chuck Note thanked Michelle Reddick, Nancy Toothaker, Holly Gauger and everyone who helped with the event. A few people put a lot of time in planning the events and don't get the help that they need. Board members were encouraged to put the events on their calendar and be available to help.

FISH RODEO – The Board discussed clearing out the debris in the deep end of the pond and to have Solitude Lake Management check and see how many of the bass are left. They discussed whether or not it would need to be restocked every year.

ATHLETIC FIELDS – The Board discussed the dumpster at the ballfields. They suggested that the Township provide the dumpster for the needed period and invoice all three entities for their portion at the beginning of the season.

MAINTENANCE – H. Miller reported that there was a blow out at Hollenbach Park. Green Giant has aeriated and over seeded the upper field. The Road Crew dugout all the boulders and stones. The school is supposed to be doing the lower field. They made sure that the grass planted is suitable for cleats. The scout only put down one row of 6 x 6's. The Board decided to add 4 x 6's to allow for a deeper amount of mulch. Motion by C. Note, seconded by C. Delp and unanimously carried to put a second row of 6 x 6's around the playground at Hollenbach Field. H. Miller discussed what signs need to be painted.

PROJECT PLANS FOR OPEN SPACE – N. Toothaker suggested that bridges are needed at Sussell Park to the new trail loop that was put in by the Arboretum. They also discussed a needed connection at Sunset to Hollenbach Park. Part of this will be on the road. It was also suggested that shelters for the benches on each trail section would be nice. Call signs and mile markers are necessary. C. Note suggested that they need to maintain what they have. The Board then discussed creating a "Friends of Trails" which would be a volunteer opportunity for people to help maintain the trails. It was suggested that the new Circuit Rider might be able to help in developing this program.

NEW BUSINESS

EXEMPTION REQUESTS – **Trapping** – A request was received from Mr. Beveridge for trapping on passive open space. The Board discussed keeping the habitat natural; they do not believe that the community would be in favor of this activity on open space acquired with their tax money. Motion by N. Toothaker seconded by C. Note and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that they reject the request. It was pointed out that the property owners could contract on their own property if they have a problem. All the members agreed that the taxpayers

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paid for the land and that there is no benefit to the community by allowing this. The Board discussed rabies cases in Pennsylvania; they also discussed the number of deer killed on SR 100. H. Miller and D. Elliot pointed out that there are sprays to keep deer and geese away from their property.

Mike Adams – Camping for Scout Troop – The Troop has decided to do their troop wide project at Hollenbach Park and build a second bridge over Fox Run. Motion by C. Note seconded by C. Delp and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that they approve this activity with no camp fires allowed.

BOARD COMMENTS – H. Miller advised that a deer blind was found on open space property. The Road Crew has taken it down.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Greg Churach has volunteered to blow off Sprogel's Run Trail from his driveway on Snyder Road to the Arboretum. He also pointed out to the Board that there is a hunting app that shows property boundaries.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The Board adjourned into Executive Session at 9:11 pm to discuss property acquisition. They readjoined at 9:26 pm.

Motion by M. Reddick seconded by C. Note and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol R. Lewis, Township Manager