

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

**January 9, 2018**

A meeting of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2018. Those present were Dennis Elliot, Michelle Reddick, Chuck Note and Nancy Toothaker. Also present was Carol R. Lewis, Township Manager, Commissioner Renee Spaide and Michael Lane, Circuit Rider.

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

**REORGANIZATION** – Motion by M. Reddick second by N. Toothaker and unanimously carried to appoint Dennis Elliot as the President. Motion by D. Elliot seconded by N. Toothaker and unanimously carried to appoint Michelle Reddick as Vice President. Michelle Reddick advised that Commissioner Trace Slinkerd is allowing it up to the Board President whether they want to report to their Commissioners or want a liaison. D. Elliot expressed that he would prefer to have Renee Spaide as a liaison as he will not make every meeting. She's also going to be on the Veteran's Committee and research all veterans in the community. Everyone was in agreement.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Motion by N. Toothaker second by M. Reddick and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of October 10, 2017 as presented.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**REPORTS/PROJECT UPDATES**

**SAVE ALLIANCE FOUNDATION PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS** – The Green Allies will be having an electronic recycling event on February 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

**PROGRAMS** – D. Elliot advised that Herb Miller wanted to know if anyone will be patrolling parks for litter. It was suggested that the Ambassador Program be advertised. M. Reddick clarified the dates set for programs this year. The Fishing Tournament will be held on April 18<sup>th</sup> and must be registered by April 9<sup>th</sup>; Community Days will be held September 22<sup>nd</sup> and the Archery Hunt will start September 15<sup>th</sup> in line with the Game Commission. There is currently not a date for the Car Show so it is not being advertised. D. Elliot reported that only two deer were gotten this year. The Fishing Tournament was changed to May 19<sup>th</sup> register by May 16<sup>th</sup> and it was decided that it would be open to all of the Pottsgroves.

**MAINTENANCE** – D. Elliot asked if there were enough trash receptacles at the parks. It was agreed that there were at this time.

**VETERAN'S MEMORIAL** – D. Elliot advised that he cancelled two meetings due to the fact that he was sick and it was cold. Trace Slinkerd drew up a plot plan for the Board of Commissioners to look at. They would like to send the drawing to a contractor in Upper Pottsgrove to get a cost for preparing this site. Russ Gofus is doing the rest. The material of the benches will be granite.

**DEVELOP PLAN FOR PROJECTS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN** – Michael Lane went through the plan goals and objectives. They looked at the map that Donna Fabry had updated showing walking trails last year.

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They discussed where they would like to see open spaces developed and possible acquisitions. D. Elliot advised that they had looked into some property to connect with New Hanover Township trails and felt that should be one of their goals. C. Note asked if New Hanover has a plan for open space. C. Lewis will look into it. They discussed how to identify properties and when they were for sale. M. Lane suggested that they get to know the land owners of properties that they have an interest in. They discussed the possibility of trail easements. M. Lane asked the Board to discuss what open space properties they want to stay passive and which ones they want to develop into active recreation. D. Elliot suggested that they talk to the residents for their opinions. C. Lewis advised them that when they are considering this they need to think of things that are and are not compatible. For instance, if you had a bird watching sanctuary area you would not want to have archery hunting.

D. Elliot advised that the residents on Evans Road do not want a trail, they want the property to just be farmed. N. Toothaker advised that there was some discussion about using some open space for a township building instead of buying new. They also discussed trying to connect Fox Hill through the LeFever property. It was suggested that the Board have some working sessions to discuss what they want to acquire and why and the uses of current acquisitions. M. Lane advised them when looking at existing facilities consider are you happy with them, do they need to expand for more parking or fields etc. and what kind of regional pressures are on our current spaces. D. Elliot felt that they need more kiosks, trail markers and identifications. Also he felt they should promote duck and bat houses to eat insects. Marcy Toepel pushed a bill for casino money for open space; it was approved in October and the question was asked how to get some of this.

**NEW BUSINESS** - Michelle Reddick advised that the Financial Report was not complete today. The Township is switching to a new system so she will mail it out to everybody. D. Elliot advised that they have an opening on the Board and asked Sherry Paup if she would consider it. Sherry advised that she would consider it but needs to do some homework first.

**BOARD COMMENTS** - M. Reddick talked about the Community Day Committee. She advised that on days of events they need to have enough staff on hand. Each Board member needs to give at least two hours on that day. A lot of prep and planning goes into these events. Renee Spaide if the Public Works attends. M. Reddick responded they do but they are being paid overtime. N. Toothaker asked if they need a bigger location. M. Reddick said they definitely need more parking but they also need electric and shade. They discussed holding the event at Hillside. D. Elliot suggested the Middle School and C. Note agreed and said they could use the generators for electric. D. Elliot suggested they approach Hillside about hosting a Family Day at the pool. It was agreed that this would be a great idea.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Motion by C. Note second by N. Toothaker and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Carol R. Lewis, Township Manager