

## **Minutes of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board    September 10, 2019 Upper Pottsgrove Township**

A meeting of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at the Upper Pottsgrove Administrative Office, 1409 Farmington Avenue, Pottstown with Dennis Elliott, Greg Churach, Chuck Note and Sherry Paup present. Also present were Pottstown Regional Recreation Coordinator Michael Lane, County Planner John Miklos and Township Secretary Jeannie DiSante. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Elliott at 7:00 p.m.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**KUMMERER PARCEL PRELIMINARY PLAN - DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED OPEN SPACE** - Bo Erikson, from the Artisan Construction Group addressed the Board explaining the plan for this age-restricted community of 143 single family home and one estate lot, the location of ungated trails, Village Green open space, and others within the proposed development which is not a gated community. County Planner John Miklos commented that he has sat in on numerous meetings on this development. The Board is concerned about wetland and impervious surfaces. The developer said there is very little wetlands and they will remain undisturbed. The storm water management design was submitted to the Conservation District and they are compliant while the potential BOG turtle habitat is being researched.

D. Elliott asked about access to roads and flow of traffic. The developer explained the plan to widen Pine Ford Road, realign the intersection at Kummerer & Pine Ford Road, widen Kummerer Road to 30' and pave it. The HOA will own and maintain the internal roads that will be 24' wide with 12' travel lanes in which emergency vehicles will fit the turn-arounds. A traffic study was completed and the counts are very low. There were discussions concerning the intersections of Pine Ford Road with Farmington Avenue and Kummerer Road with Farmington Avenue.

D. Elliott asked to see soil reports and was told all soils have been tested and the Conservation District will be reviewing extensively.

B. Erikson said the developer is asking for a recommendation for plan approval from the Open Space Board. There were questions from the Board concerning the timing of not getting this plan to the Open Space Board from July until this meeting. The Members agreed they all need time to digest the many details and issues concerning the plan and cannot at this time make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.

**CONSIDER RESIGNATION OF JOHN SHANTZ** - The Township received an email from John Shantz to be submitted to the Open Space and Rec Board in which he gave his formal resignation to the Board. G. Churach made a motion, seconded by C. Note and unanimously carried to accept, with regrets, John Shantz's resignation.

**CONSIDER REQUEST TO FARM MALMBERG PROPERTY** - J. DiSante advised a Michael Connor who owns an organic farm, Sara's Way Farm, contacted Manager Reddick with his interest in farming the Township's vacant lot across from 1823 Farmington Avenue. He currently is farming, at this address, cover crops and is a 'no-til' organic farmer. He said he would help with developing an RFP for 2020 for farming all open space in the Township. The Board discussed this program and will research countywide costs and rents. Motion by C. Note, seconded by G. Churach and unanimously carried to allow Michael Connor to farm the open space property on Farmington Avenue providing the fees are first evaluated.

**CONSIDER RECRUITMENT OF STUDENTS TO SERVE ON OPEN SPACE BOARD** - D. Elliott asked the Board to consider bringing in two students, a high school junior and a senior to volunteer on this committee to introduce civics to students and encourage serving in their community. The Board discussed ages, voting rights, rotating new juniors as the senior student graduates and working with the school. Motion by C. Note, seconded by S. Paup and unanimously carried to approve D. Elliott recommending this idea to the Board of Commissioners.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND AT KULP FIELD** – from the audience, Renee Spaide spoke to the Board advising the Pottsgrove Recreation Board needs someone on the sub-committee for the inclusive playground program. As a Commissioner of the Township she cannot be on any other Board. C. Note volunteered. The Board discussed ideas for land for the playground. M. Lane noted there are many grants for multi-municipal groups. Motion by G. Churach, seconded by S. Paup and unanimously carried to recommend that Upper Pottsgrove Township host the location for the playground with C. Note as the representative.

**SHANTZ PROPERTY** - M. Lane advised he met with Barb Shantz concerning their 10 acres on ACT 319, tax relief, and they wish to finalize the trail for pets and connect to other trails. She asked if the Township would put 5 acres in a conservation easement. The Board discussed cost of the easement and the 2020 budget and to get Natural Lands Trust involved. Motion by G. Churach, seconded by S. Paup and unanimously carried to have the Township contact Natural Lands Trust to investigate and appraise the property.

**PARRC COMMITTEE UPDATES** – G. Churach discussed the submitted proposal for an Intergovernmental Agreement which outlines renewed commitment to PARRC 2019-2024. The Board of Commissioners are requested to adopt the Ordinance accepting the Intergovernmental Agreement. No action is required from the Open Space Board.

**HOLLENBACH PARK TREE SCREEN** – M. Lane advised the average Tree Vitalize Grant is \$6900.00 and he did not recommend applying because there are many restrictions.

**GRANTS**

- PAHWF - M Lane advised the Township received \$25,000 for the Sunset Park trail renovation project to build up the trail above the floodplain. The Township will match with \$25,000.
- PMRPC - M. Lane will write a grant request for Fox Hill Trail. They require a 10% match.
- DCNR - Hollenbach Park 2020 is a 50% match for the Township and there is a 3-year project limit to build. You first need engineering plans.
- PECO Green Region Open Space Program - grants up to \$10,000

D. Elliott suggested taking care of the trails first and visit the other grants in the spring.

**VETERAN’S MEMORIAL** – D. Elliott advised the pad and walkway are completed and the costs were paid.

**OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE** – The Board reviewed Chapter 1, the Community Profile. M. Lane and J. Miklos discussed adding verbiage to include Shantz Buford’s Run along with the font and overall readability of the document. They expect to have all 12 chapters ready for the next meeting.

**BOARD COMMENTS** – G. Churach explained there are park survey cards to be distributed to the public. The card offers residents a chance to enter a drawing for a \$25 Amazon gift card by completing a survey on-line about their park experiences while visiting our Township parks and trails.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – R. Spaide apologized for not being able to serve on this Board.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Motion by C. Note, second by G. Churach and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Jeannie DiSante, Township Secretary