A meeting of the Open Space and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, July 5, 2022. Those present were Greg Churach, Charles Note, Dennis Elliot, Sherry Paup, and Gary Novack. Also present was Sherri Griffith, Planning & Zoning Administrative Assistant. Cathy Paretti was present in the audience, as was one member of the public.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM June 7, 2022** – Motion by C. Note, second by S. Paup, and unanimously carried to approve the June 7th, 2022, minutes as presented.

**REPORTS**

1. **Green Allies ~** K. Hamilton gave a Report

***Update:***

1. The first farm harvest was completed the 4th Thursday in June. We provided food for 50 families in need throughout the region. This was through our partnership with Tower Health/Pottstown Hospital who organized the distribution.

2. This is the first year the farm was fully funded, and it is paying off. We will have an abundance of food. At the Althouse Arboretum, a farm stand was built next to the house by an Eagle Scout, and we will be providing inexpensive organic produce to the local community before the end of July. It will be an honor-system payment stand open every Friday and Saturday starting in the 3rd week of July. Anyone can drive up and get freshly harvested vegetables!

***Coming Up:***

1. There are no upcoming plans beyond summer camp and our farm project.

***Requests for approval:***

* 1. 1. Five small temporary signs to be place on the farm fence explaining what it is. Each one laminated 8/5 x 11 inches (regular paper size). Take down at the end of the growing season.
  2. a. YOUTH GROW: A Project by Green Allies Students.
  3. b. Organically grown food distributed to families in need across our region.
  4. c. In partnership with Tower Health/Pottstown Hospital.
  5. d. On land provided by Upper Pottsgrove Township Open Space Program.
  6. e. Financial Support by: Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation, Home Depot, the Taylor Family, Pottstown Rotary Club, First Presbyterian Church, Levengood’s Flowers Inc.

1. **PAARC ~** C. Paretti provided a Report & Park Equity Assessment Report:

* In addition to a DCNR grant Tricia is also looking into Montco Open Space grants.
* Tricia is asking for help with generating more interest in the PARCC website.
* DEI Report: Please look over and refer to this as the Open Space Board makes plans to upgrade any parks, existing and new. There is a need to make our parks accessible to those that are handicapped. The report tells you where improvements could be made to parks in Upper Pottsgrove. You can look over parks in other townships to see what they also need to improve the walkability of the parks.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Discuss mowing a walking trail in the area where Prout Farm loop trail will eventually be ~** C. Note mentioned having the Public Works guys mow a walking trail until we have the real trail done. K. Hamilton stated he would love that and thought it was an awesome idea. All the Board Members agreed to mow it for now, subject to BOC approval.
2. **Discuss adding “no unleashed dogs” to Park Rules sign.** - G. Churach to request approval from Manager.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Status on Gilbertsville Rd Trail Crossing:** S. Griffith mentioned that the township recently applied for the ARLE Grant for this project and won’t know anything till the end of the year. Until then there won’t be much to report moving forward until we know the status of the grant.

**CHAIR REPORT** – G. Churach mentioned we are soliciting proposals from local tree services to remove overhanging limbs on North Hanover Street, and to remove 12 dead Ash Trees on Open Space in the Turnberry Development.

We received a bench donated by Trex from the Lions Club. The location of installation is to be determined.

**BOARD COMMENTS** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – The Board convened in an Executive Session at 7:31pm but took no formal action. The Board reconvened at 7:51 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Griffith

Planning & Zoning Administrator