

**OPEN SPACE & RECREATION BOARD**  
**September 12, 2012 Meeting Minutes**

Board members present were Chairwoman Sue Thompson, Jill Ludy, Greg Churach and Ralph Freed. Dennis Elliott was absent. Also present were Alan Kratz, Karen Young, Jay Young, Susan Landis, Executive Director, Lancaster Recreation Commission, Herbert C. Miller, Jr., Commissioner and Jack Layne, Township Manager.

**1. Call to Order**

Chairwoman Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Churach moved that the August 15, 2012 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Ms. Ludy seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**3. Public Comment**

- Mr. Young stated that he was a member of Boy Scout Group 36 and that he desired to complete an Eagle Scout Project for the Township. He stated that he was considering providing items at Sunset Park, such as a picnic table and pull-up bars at this location. He added that the placement of mileage markers along the pedestrian trail could also be a project, which is something that a friend of his had previously done. Mr. Miller stated that a picnic bench and small recreation area were needed. Mr. Young further stated that his emphasis was on getting other people involved in this endeavor since he was primarily serving in a project management role.
- It was noted that Mr. Kratz had requested that the Township place fencing along the areas bordering Township open space and his property. Mr. Miller stated that he was not supportive of this request. He further stated that people may walk onto his property regardless of what type of barriers, e.g., fencing, rocks, etc., were provided. He added that those that have walked onto his property may have come from the Turnberry subdivision. Mr. Kratz requested that signs be installed before the vegetation dies down in the colder months. Mr. Young stated that there appeared to be an issue with the 4-Wheelers coming onto Mr. Kratz's property. Chairman Thompson stated that the request for fencing was not approved by the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Miller added that the 20' easement on the Grimm property had not been designated as a pedestrian trail area.
- Ms. Landis stated that she intended to interview Open Space and Recreation Board members regarding questions related to an endeavor to be funded in part by the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation (Foundation) to provide a regional recreation project for this area. She stated that a similar endeavor in this area was attempted unsuccessfully seven to eight years ago. She stated that there would be a submittal for a State grant that would fund a Regional Coordinator

for a four year period. She added that the Foundation had expressed a willingness to fund 50% of the salary cost for this position. She stated that Upper Pottsgrove Township was the fourth municipality that she had discussed this proposal with. She stated that a Regional Coordinator may or may not be desired in this area and that the physical location for the Regional Coordinator still had to be determined. She noted that the Warwick area had a Regional Coordinator and has been doing this for 15 years but that this area is not the same model as the Pottstown area. She further stated that the financial contribution for each participating municipality still had to be determined. Mr. Miller expressed his concern as to what role the Regional Coordinator would play with respect to moving local projects forward. He cited the Lower Pottsgrove proposed trail system as an example. Mr. Freed stated that part of the contribution could be the sharing of services. Ms. Ludy asked was there another level of bureaucracy being added by providing a Regional Coordinator. Ms. Landis stated that the Regional Coordinator would provide technical support and assistance. Ms. Ludy reiterated that the Regional Coordinator would coordinate the utilization of available resources. Mr. Miller stated that perhaps this position might help the communities to work more closely together. It was noted that grants should be procured to assist with the funding of this position. Mr. Young stated that two municipalities appeared to be interested in this endeavor – e.g., North Coventry and East Coventry.

- The Board discussed the Township providing a sign in designated areas stating that you would be trespassing onto private property if you go beyond the location of this sign. Ms. Ludy made a motion that the sign stating that you would be trespassing onto private property if you go beyond the location of this sign showing the bolder letters be provided by the Township. The motion was seconded by Mr. Churach. The motion was approved.

#### **4. Old Business**

##### **A. Mr. Miller – Important Points**

Mr. Miller stated that David Ingram, Mr. Churach and he had been working on the development of a pedestrian trail on North Hanover. Chairman Thompson stated that she wanted a trail across from Mocharniuk Park.

Mr. Miller stated that the two picnic tables at Sussell Park needed to be anchored.

Mr. Miller stated that vandals had damaged fencing in the deep overlook area in Sunset Park that would be repaired by the Public Works Department.

Mr. Miller stated that the Eagles Scout Bridge at Mocharniuk Park had been partially destroyed by vandals.

Mr. Miller stated that the spur from Maugers Mill to New Hanover should have a sign that stated Mocharniuk Spur.

Ms. Ludy noted that another trash container was needed at Sussell Park. Ms. Ludy made a motion to procure and place a trash can next to the picnic tables at Sussell Park. Mr. Freed seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Mr. Miller stated that a post and rail fence could be placed at Sussell Park where there is open field and no clear boundary lines. Mr. Kratz and Mr. Young agreed with this proposal.

#### **B. Community Day**

Chairwoman Thompson stated that she had recently met with Hopewell Church representatives regarding Community Day and discussed the options for setting up. She noted that additional vendors included a cat rescue group. She further noted that there would be three clowns, the J.P. Mascaro Mascot – Dumpo, Motorcycle Club, Medevac helicopter, a magician, a live band, four games, Police and Fire Department exhibitions and the CHIPS identification program.

#### **C. Open Space Update**

There was no discussion on this item.

#### **5. New Business**

It was noted that the Township had been invited to visit SAVE on September 27<sup>th</sup> at their Souderton location.

#### **6. Adjournment**

Mr. Freed moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:00 P.M. Ms. Ludy seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**Next meeting scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, November 14, 2012**