

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION BOARD
November 13, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Board members present were Chairwoman Sue Thompson, Greg Churach and Ralph Freed. Jill Ludy and Dennis Elliott were absent. Also present were Elwood Taylor, Commissioner, Herbert C. Miller, Jr., Commissioner, Ken Hamilton, Matt Dallas, Maggie Dallas, Shelly Stockmal, Girl Scout Troop Leader # 71868, Chrissy Long, Troop Co-Leader, Annie Stockmal, Troop Members: Halle Woodall, Kelsey Bunn, Macey Long, Rachel Durante and Jack Layne, Township Manager.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Public Comment

- Ms. Dallas requested that the Township support her efforts to attain a Silver Award from the Girl Scouts. Ms. Dallas is a member of Girl Scout Troop #71868. Her proposed project for obtaining her Silver Award would consist of her working with various species of plants. She noted that her project must be completed by the end of the summer 2014. Scout Leader, Ms. Stockmal, stated that the Silver Award for Girl Scouts is one step lower than the Gold Award, which is equivalent to an Eagle Scout designation for Boy Scouts. There was a general consensus by the Board that the Township would be supportive of this proposed activity and goal attainment by Ms. Dallas.
- Mr. Hamilton stated that he would be working as the full-time Director of the Students Against Violating the Earth (SAVE) Foundation and that he would be extensively involved in the effort by the Foundation to establish a significant presence and operations in Upper Pottsgrove. Commissioner Miller noted that the Board of Commissioners had recently approved a motion to purchase the Hilsee property where the SAVE Foundation's office and over 15 acres of open space are located. Mr. Churach asked if a designated area for a pedestrian trail on this property had been determined. Mr. Hamilton responded not as of yet. Mr. Hamilton stated that Mr. Althouse and Mr. Hilsee both desired that the property purchased by the Township should be named the Althouse Arboretum. Mr. Hamilton added that the SAVE Foundation would have to accept the donation of the house, which is located on the Hilsee property. Mr. Hamilton stated that he hoped to place a desk in the building located on this site in spring 2014.
- Commissioner Miller suggested that the sign designating the Althouse Arboretum be revised to add- Sprogels Run Trail Link- in smaller letters to the sign.
- It was also noted that the proposed Fox Hill Trail sign should be revised to add Community Education Center.
- Mr. Churach made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Freed, to revise the proposed Althouse Arboretum sign to add Sprogels Run

Trail Link and the Fox Hill Trail sign to add Community Education Center. The motion was approved.

- Commission President Taylor acknowledged that the Township Board was supportive of the actions by the Open Space Board to take action that would be potentially very positive for the present and future of Upper Pottsgrove Township.
- Commissioner Miller noted that the Fox Hill Trail sign should be placed at the entrance to Windsor Heights. Mr. Churach moved that the Fox Hill Trail sign should be placed at the entrance to Windsor Heights with the proposed rider to sign. Mr. Freed seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
- Commissioner Miller stated that the Prout Farm Park and the Sunset Park signs should have the proposed sign riders added to each sign - Sprogels Run Trail Head North and the Sprogels Run Trail Head. Mr. Freed then moved that the Prout Farm Park and the Sunset Park sign should have the proposed sign riders added to each sign - Sprogels Run Trail Head North and the Sprogels Run Trail Head. Mr. Churach seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Churach moved that the September 11, 2013 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Mr. Freed seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

4. Reports

- Chairwoman Thompson stated that Doggie Pots and bags were needed for the Fox Run Trail and Sussell Park areas.

5. Old Business

- Commissioner Miller stated that he had ordered trees for respective park areas, i.e., 2 Poplar, 3 Pears and 3 Douglas Firs. He added that he would be meeting with Chloe Klaus this Saturday to further discuss this matter.
- It was noted that the Geocache had been placed on the Fox Hill Trail.

6. New Business

A. Discussion and possible action regarding 1270 Farmington Avenue

Mr. Layne stated that the owner of 1270 Farmington Avenue had suggested that the Township might desire to purchase his property for open space. Following discussion on this matter, the Board did not recommend that the Township purchase this property at this time.

B. Discussion and possible action regarding the Green Region Grant Program

Mr. Hamilton stated that he would like to apply for grant funding for the SAVE Alliance Foundation from the Green Region Grant Program, which is sponsored by PECO. He stated that he would write the Grant Application for

this Program but that he needed the Township to be involved since a municipality must submit the application. Mr. Churach moved that the Township support Mr. Hamilton in the writing and submittal of the Green Region Grant application for funding. Mr. Freed seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The Board requested that Mr. Hamilton provide a sketch of the location of the proposed trail that would be placed on the Hilsee property.

C. Miscellaneous Items

- Commissioner Miller noted that a number of residents were bringing their dogs onto Township park areas. Following some discussion on the potential negative impact of having an area such as a dog park that would allow a large number of dogs onto park areas, e.g., parasites, there was not a consensus by the Board that dog parks should be provided at Township parks.
- Commissioner Miller noted the recent *Philadelphia Inquirer* article regarding the regional trail network. He emphasized that Upper Pottsgrove Township should be very proud of the hard work that has been accomplished as shown by the fact that the Township has constructed a fine trail system for its residents. He further stated that the Goose Run Trail could be connected to West Pottsgrove via Levengood Road.
- It was noted that the Township's trails were being maintained by the Public Works Department.
- Commissioner Taylor spoke briefly about S.B. 1523 and how this legislation if approved would allow for municipalities to utilize a percentage of funding now earmarked for open space acquisition to be used for open space maintenance. He urged Board members to contact their respective legislators to support this initiative.
- Commissioner Miller stated that he and Mr. Layne had recently attended an interesting Schuylkill Highlands workshop.

7. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Churach moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:24 P.M. Mr. Freed seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Next meeting scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, January 8, 2014