

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

April 14, 2015

A meeting of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, April 14, 2015, at the Upper Pottsgrove Township Administrative Offices; 1409 Farmington Avenue. Those present were Matt Dallas, Nancy Toothaker, Dennis Elliott, Chris Delp and Charles Note. Also present were Township Manager Carol R. Lewis, Commissioner Elwood Taylor, Commissioner Herb Miller, Commissioner Martin Schreiber, Mike Hensey and Mike Mancini from Chestnut Grove Home Owner's Association. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Matt Dallas.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Those present pledged allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – A motion by N.Toothaker, seconded by C. Note and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2015, meeting as presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

CHESTNUT GROVE HOA PROPOSAL - Mike Hensey and Mike Mancini advised the Board that there was a parcel gifted by the Chestnut Grove HOA to Goose Run open space. It was cleared to become a parking area for the trails but that fell through. It is clear and level although it is filled with rock. They asked for support in finishing this area for a multi-purpose field. Due to the lot sizes the children have nowhere to play except in the street. M. Hensey advised them that they got one (1) proposed estimate of what it would cost to make the field playable. The estimate came out to \$12,100. Both Summer Grove Home Owners Association and Chestnut Grove Home Owners Association are interested in helping to develop this lot. The Board considered some possible problems such as balls going into the road or parking areas. M. Hensey advised them that they anticipate the majority of the use coming from the two developments who would be walking to it. There is some parking on Fallbrook Lane however. The Board discussed who should do the improvements and how the agreements would be set up. The Board agreed that this is needed in that area. D. Elliott advised the Board that they need to look at the total picture including emergency access to the field, responsibilities for mowing etc. A motion by C. Note, seconded by C. Delp and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that they consider developing this plot as a field for recreation and have the Engineer look it over to make sure it is doable pending approval of reimbursement by the Home Owners Association.

POTTSTOWN HEALTH AND WELLNESS PARK CONTEST – C. Lewis distributed the outline for this year's park contest to the Board. The Board decided on Hollenbach Field with the potential prize money to be used for trail improvements around the park. This area is being developed as a partnership between the Township and the Pottsgrove Middle School. There are currently two (2) soccer fields on it and the Middle School Coach would like to use it for cross country as well. C. Lewis will fill out all applicable paper work.

FARM CONTRACTS – A motion by N. Toothaker, seconded by C. Delp and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that they execute Farm Contracts for the Boerner tract and for Prout Farm.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ORDINANCE – A motion by C. Note, seconded by N. Toothaker and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that they adopt

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the revised Open Space and Recreation Ordinance in its current form.

PART-TIME HELP – A motion by N. Toothaker, seconded by D. Elliott and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that they hire a part-time seasonal worker for the summer to help with park and open space maintenance.

PARKING LOT AT ALTHOUSE ARBORETUM – C. Note explained to the Board that the group doing the work for the arboretum has offered to pave the rest of the parking lot for \$3,000. However, at this time it is not fit to pave. He looked at the site with Ken Hamilton and Elwood Taylor and gave them some recommendations. E. Taylor explained that the Engineer also looked at it. It will need some pipes for underdrainage and stone before paving would be possible. At this point you can't even park there. Hopewell Trucking and Excavating will be submitting an estimate for the work.

SAVE ALLIANCE – They held a very successful Easter Egg Hunt with over 300 attendees. M. Dallas advised the Board that Chris Flanagan, who was a Police Lieutenant, in Radnor has identified the SAVE Alliance as his project for his leadership program. They are interested in also promoting what the Township does. The Board discussed the SAVE Alliance's identity which started out as Students against Violating the Earth. They have since incorporated Spark the Wave Club from Pottsgrove Middle School. E. Taylor explained that he attended the first meeting with the leaders of which there are 20 to 30 and all of them will be helping. They are trying to generate a steady income to support the SAVE Alliance's efforts.

ATHLETIC FIELD – M. Dallas would like to consider putting stone in to get from the parking lot to the upper field. During their work weekend they took out a ten year old carpet from the woods and created ruts with the equipment. You can't walk to the snack bar without walking in the mud; this is a very wet area. C. Note interjected that he would like to see some serious barriers between the field and the lot. The logs get moved and they drive on the field. H. Miller agreed with him saying that it makes it difficult to maintain the fields and it's dangerous to play on them. The Board discussed expanding the current parking area with stone and putting in better barriers to the field such as boulders or a fence. Frank Quinter, the Public Works Director, worked up an estimate of approximately \$2600 to install the stone maintenance lane. A motion by C. Note, seconded by N. Toothaker and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that a stone maintenance/access lane be installed with the ball teams to share in the cost of it. A proposal was received from Eric Miller of the Pottsgrove Little League for maintenance of the interior of their field. The Board decided to keep the contracts as they are but if the groups would like to mow more often than the township does that is entirely up to them. M. Dallas advised the Board that the Pottsgrove Little League had offered the township a sign at no cost. On the scoreboard is the old Harleysville National Bank which is no longer in business. They have offered this space to the township but they need wording provided to them. It is recommended that the wording be "Welcome to Upper Pottsgrove Township Athletic Fields".

AMBASSADOR PROGRAM – C. Lewis and N. Toothaker will meet to review the current guidelines and present to the Board at the next meeting.

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BOARD COMMENTS – C. Note advised the Board that there is a Committee who will be meeting in the near future to plan the next Community Day. D. Elliott had mark ups of the revised “Welcome” and “No Hunting” signs for the Board to look at. One had the words “No Hunting/No Trapping” in larger letters than the rest; the other one had it smaller. The Board discussed the intent of the signs whether it is to keep hunters away from the open space or to show residents where the open space is and to welcome them onto it. The issue initially came up when people were hunting on open space land. Therefore it was decided that both signs were needed. A motion by C. Note, seconded by C. Delp and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that they adopt both signs with the one with the large letters to be posted in problem areas and the other one to go everywhere else.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Don Clancy, 1296 Vale Circle, attended the meeting. He told the Board that he lives in Turnberry Farms. Over the winter he had ten (10) ash trees come down on his property due to the emerald ash borer. He found their tracks in the trees. Most of the open space in that area is ash and 99% of them will be lost over the next couple of years he believes. He is concerned because kids play in this forest and the trees may be unstable. He asked if the Board considered running a trail through the area and then at that time address the trees. He thought he could get some volunteers to cut down the trees but did not know. D. Elliott suggested that the Township contact the Forestry people and find out how to deal with the problem. The Board agreed that this needs to be looked at. E. Taylor advised him that the Township does take care of trees on public property that can fall on private property. The problem needs to be reported to the Township and we will look at it.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion by D. Elliott, seconded by C. Note and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol R. Lewis, Township Manager