

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

August 8, 2017

A meeting of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, June 13, 2017. Those present were Dennis Elliot, Chuck Note, Michelle Reddick, Chris Delp and Nancy Toothaker. Also present was Carol R. Lewis, Township Manager, Commissioner Herbert C. Miller, Jr., Commissioner Martin Schreiber and Michael Lane, Circuit Rider.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion by M. Reddick second by N. Toothaker and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of June 13, 2017 as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

COMMUNITY DAYS – M. Reddick reported that so far she has gotten \$500 from developers, and C. Lewis is working on getting the \$500 grant from PECO. She is looking for ideas for the use of the funds and asked that these be emailed to her or to give her a call. The Classic Car Club will be participating and have four (4) cars committed. So far we have 10 to 12 vendors. We will have hot dogs, Costco is giving out free, and we will have free pizza from Tornettas. There are a couple of new committee members with a lot of great ideas. It will be held Saturday, September 23rd from 11:00 to 3:00. M. Reddick needs commitments for helping that day. The lowest price for a banner was \$90 from Custom Creations. Motion by C. Note seconded by C. Delp and unanimously carried to approve the purchase. The event is already listed on the billboard.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Trail Study

Glenn Giersdorf, **1455 Meadowview Drive**, had some questions and concerns about the route of the trail. He is concerned about the safety and privacy for his family and asked where exactly the trail was going and what the benefit to the community was. C. Lewis pointed out the route of the trail on a map and said that it was primarily for safety for people going from the High School to the Middle School and Hollenbach Park. They discussed the route of the trail, criminal activity, alternate routes and cutting trees. H. Miller pointed out that we reduced the speed limit on Route 663 in preparation for a trail crossing on that road. Michael Lane advised them that public comment ends on September 2nd and that there is a Park Committee meeting at the Pottstown Health and Wellness Center on August 23rd at 5:00 pm. if they would like to attend.

DEVELOP PLAN FOR PROJECTS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN – C. Lewis advised the Board that Donna Fabry and Michael Lane would be doing a red line of the current plan to show what has already been accomplished and then will be reviewing sections at a time with the Board for their input.

PROJECT UPDATES – H. Miller reported that the speed limit signs on Charlotte Street have been installed and he had meetings with Pottsgrove School District, the Police Department and the owners of Brookside. Michael Lane advised that PennDOT is considering adding a sidewalk within the right of way over the bridge. The crosswalk will include striping, signs and flashing lights. C. Note asked who patrols this route the most. It is primarily patrolled by Lower Pottsgrove Police Department.

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Althouse Arboretum – H. Miller reported that they are finishing up camps at the end of the month. They were very successful. The Arboretum does need water. There is a broken line from the well. They are exploring hooking up with Aqua. The Township is working on a Use Agreement for Prout Farm and Sussell. They have a 5k coming up in September.

PROGRAMS:

Archery Hunt – C. Lewis reported that we only have one applicant to date. D. Elliott would like to have at least three.

PARK CONTEST 2017 – M. Schreiber reported that we took first in the Activity Challenge and third in selfies. We will receive \$5,000 for the Activity Challenge and we have also applied for the additional \$1,000 grant.

2018 CALENDAR – M. Reddick explained that they did not do the Car Show/Flea Market this year due to negative feedback. In talking to Larry Hanna they are suggesting that the focus for next year be to raise money for bullet proof vests for the Police and Fire Departments. These are above and beyond the regular ones they wear everyday and would be in the cars if they are needed. Also we need AED's. The focus would be Shine for First Responders. Motion by M. Reddick seconded by C. Note and unanimously carried to approve the Car Show Shine for First Responders. C. Lewis suggested that they open the Fish Rodeo to anyone and not limit it to Upper Pottsgrove children. It was decided that this event will be held on April 14, 2018. Community Days next year will be September 22, 2018 and the Archery Hunt will be on the third Saturday of September. M. Reddick will have the date for the Car Show next month or the following month. M. Reddick reported that they used to have a bake sale at Community Days. Currently they have a Community Day Committee and it was suggested that they expand it to a Programming Committee. The Board agreed that a BBQ or a chili cook off would be great.

ATHLETIC FIELDS – The Pottsgrove Little League is working on getting a quote for installing a water line with a snap hydrant.

MAINTENANCE – Spraying and Paving of Portion of Trails – H. Miller reported that the trail along Gilbertsville Road to Snyder has grown up with grass and weeds. They used a flame thrower to get rid of it but the vegetation came right back again. Spraying did not work. At this time there is no definition to the trail. He received an estimate for macadam on this small portion of trail for \$3,600. Also the hill to Sussell Park from Snyder Road has been washed away. The quote to pave this section would be \$9,800. These trails are used for the 5k in September and in November. C. Note asked if there was a track of time used to maintain open space. He felt it would be beneficial to compare the cost of renting a bush hog two times a year to hack back the growth instead of paving. The trail is six foot wide. N. Toothaker asked if we would still be able to get equipment in to maintain without damaging the blacktop. H. Miller responded that they would keep the blacktop even with mowing so this would not happen. C. Note and N. Toothaker were not in favor of paving. They would like to explore some other possible solutions. N. Toothaker commented that environmentally she is not a fan of blacktop on trails. H. Miller explained that they are trying to enlarge the 5k runs. C. Note pointed out that the Appalachian Trail has areas that are also

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treacherous but people know that it is a hiking trail and don't expect perfectly groomed trails. Also the trails in Green Lane are like that. D. Elliott interjected that this is part of the Community Trail System and some maintenance is needed to protect what the Township has invested into these trails already. If paved it will eliminate the need for spraying. Pipes will be installed and it will be appropriately pitched for proper water run-off. C. Note asked if we could just do the drainage work and see how it holds up. Landscaping fabric was used when the trails were installed. N. Toothaker suggested the matter be tabled until other options were explored. Everyone was in favor of this. Nobody had gone to look at the trail at Cherrytree; they didn't know this was going to come up for discussion this evening. Motion by C. Delp to authorize the \$3,600 paving at Cherrytree. It is only 150 feet long and would not be a huge impact on the Trail System. M. Reddick requested that if they are approached with an expense they would need more information. Just because it is budgeted doesn't mean the money has to be spent. There was no second to the matter. It will be tabled until more information is provided.

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL – D. Elliott H. Miller and Trace Slinkard met with Russ Gofus. He showed them a proposal and will do everything at his cost. It is proposed to be straight out from the pavilion. An American flag will be installed behind the monument and other flags will be there but not all the time. The Elks have committed a \$500 to \$1,000 donation toward the project. Spring City Legion Post 0602 will help with the flags. M. Schreiber advised that an Eagle Scout put up flags at the Boyertown cemetery. They discussed the size of the flags. M. Reddick advised that the Committee is trying to get contractors to donate the site preparation.

NEW BUSINESS

C. Lewis advised that they are looking into a circle trail at Prout Farm. Originally Mingey was going to connect Prout Farm Run along the road to the pool but some of the property owners do not want to give an easement for this. The loop trail will entirely be on Township open space. Prout is used extensively and this would be a great addition. Mingey will be installing a trail around Phase I and 2 of Sprugel's Run to connect with this park. Next the Board discussed the tick signs.

BOARD COMMENT

N. Toothaker inquired as to the plan for the ball fields that was presented years ago. It was explained that this plan was withdrawn due to lack of funds and then the Boards changed. C. Note reported that he has killed two spotted lantern flies so far and sees a lot of them.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion by M. Reddick seconded by N. Toothaker and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol R. Lewis, Township Manager