

A meeting of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, March 2, 2021. Those present were Greg Churach, Chuck Note, Dennis Elliott, and Sherry Paup. Also present were Sherri Griffith & Township Manager Michelle Reddick. Commissioners Renee Spaide and Cathy Paretti were also present in the audience.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion by C. Note, second by S. Paup, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes for February 10, 2021, with changes to add the Board members thanking D. Elliott for his many years of service as chairman. All ayes.

NEW BUSINESS

KUMMERER PHASE 2A PRESENTATION – G. Churach presented a table to use as a reference which was compiled from LTL’s first review letter relevant to comments related to open space:

- #1 Not required to do landscape plans at preliminary stage ~ will do so at final plan stage
- #2 Will include all required buffers on landscape plans
- #3 No trails ~ softening buffers & fencing will be provided where necessary.
- #4 Alternate access feedback ~ Less or no steep slope impact
- #5 Wetlands certificate completed ~ Letter will be updated.
- #6 A waiver is required for landscape preservation ~ planting additional trees on small lots will be difficult.
- #7 Will show street trees on landscape.
- #8 Existing vegetation provides buffer
- #9 Section 310-38.3 (1) ~ Township must perform an appraisal and then, once information is received, a decision can be made.
- #10 Will comply with riparian corridor requirements
- #11 A significant number of trails being provided in Phase 1; will provide connection to Phase 2 & sidewalks will be provided in Phase 2. There is no area where a trail makes sense in Phase 2 as it would abut existing properties.

#12 No timeline showed for trail construction

G. Churach presented a list to use as a reference which was compiled from LTL's first review letter relevant to comments not specific to open space:

#1 Provide streetlights – will add to plans. G. Churach recommends LED. C. Note asked for a concrete timeline for the landscape.

#2 Relative to maintaining the Kummerer Road connection to Farmington Avenue to keep traffic on Pineford and Evans Road to a minimum, two alternative road layout plans for review were provided.

#3 Provide compliance with open space recommendations per MCPC review letter – B. Erixson needs feedback on the road network.

The Kummerer Phase 2A applicant agreed to return to present revised plans.

D Elliott asked how close to existing properties on Evans Road will Phase 2A be. The answer is 175 feet.

C. Note asked if wetlands could be allowed to be incorporated on the lot. B. Erixson said they will be 25 feet away.

REPORTS:

GREEN ALLIES – K. Hamilton provided members with a copy of the report below.

Update:

1. Publicly want to thank Upper Pottsgrove for chipping the 240 Christmas trees that were collected this past January. The chips will be used directly on our trails.
2. We had 3 dangerous Ash Trees removed from the property last week. One behind our pavilion and two along the trails near the meadow. Total cost \$4,550 (2 on township property)
3. We have begun work on repairing "Old Grande Road Trail" which leads from the parking area to Sprogel's Run Trail. (Township Property) This is a very popular trail that is continuously washed out after heavy rains and has required repair for a couple of years. I received a Schuylkill Highlands grant to help with the cost. Repairs include digging a trench to direct runoff, the addition of pipe under Sprogel's Run trail to drain water away and repairing of the damaged trail. The goal is to have all the work done by April. Total cost approximately \$4,000.

4. Our Outdoor Summer Nature Camp Program was released to the public on February 4th and all 9 weeks completely sold out in under 2 weeks. We have no more open camp spots.

5. Analytics shows that we had over 1,200 Facebook engagements in February and our favorite community comment: Green Allies is a local non-profit that manages the Althouse Arboretum that saved our family's sanity all through this pandemic year. It is a little bit of preserved space in our community, student-run and by volunteers too. We are so extremely grateful for this local gem to our community!

Coming Up:

1. We will be hosting our traditional "Family Forest Easter Egg Hunt" (with COVID-19 adaptations) on March 27th from 10 am to 2 pm. Families need to register for a time slot. Includes a hike in the woods to look for eggs. Prizes and games when they come out of the woods. A \$5 minimum donation per family is requested. Families can register on our website althousearboretum.org. Can a link be placed on the Township site?

2. Electronics/Appliance/Metal Recycling is scheduled for April 10th. It will take place at Pottsgrove Middle School to provide more space. We are adding a paper shredding station as well. Paper shredding has been the number one request from residents, so we decided to include it with this year's program. (This may be sponsored by State Representative Tracy Pennycuik. We are currently trying to work out details with her office)

Request s for approval: None currently.

G. Churach has a meeting with K. Hamilton tomorrow regarding his previous plans for Sussell Park.

PARRC - C. Paretti provided members with a copy of the report below.

1. Meetings

PARRC has been meeting via Zoom and will continue until further notice.

2. Guest Speakers

Andrew Frankenfield from the Penn State Extension talked about hayfields. Abigail Reiter, Agricultural Conservation Specialist, spoke about meadows.

There was talk about consulting about a conservation plan. I believe chapter 10 of the Upper Pottsgrove Township Open Space Plan covers this. We need to follow these guidelines.

3. Comments to the New Hanover Township Comp Plan Park, Rec & Open Space issues

Supplied are the comments to the New Hanover Township from MCPC.

4. Sub Committees for PARRC

A spreadsheet has been prepared for the implementation of sub-committees.

5. Grant Announcements Updates:

PECO Fall Grant Round -\$10,000 max request-Developed and submitted on 10/21/20, grant applications for: East Coventry Township -Park Signage project-\$10,000; North Coventry Township -Coventry Trail Engineering project-\$10,000. Upper Pottsgrove Township-Shontz Trail Easement -\$5,000 -Removed from submission by owners; Grant award announcement this spring.

PAHWF Spring Grant Round -Projects submitted include: NCT Pickleball Courts at Riverside Park; ECT Towpath Park Phase I Engineering.

DCNR C2P2 Spring Grant Round -Projects for submission include: Borough's Memorial Park Bridge & Streambank Stabilization Project; Amendment to Gerald Richards Parkin LPT.

6. Coordinator Replacement

The PARRC board will have a meeting on March 9th to discuss the replacement for the coordinator position with PARRC. We will choose what applicants we will interview. The schedule is to hire someone by mid-April and Michael Lane will spend 2 weeks with the new hire to get them acclimated.

7. PARRC Meetings

A link to zoom meetings will now be on the PARRC website: www.PARRC.net.

OLD BUSINESS

GILBERTSVILLE ROAD FLASHING LIGHT – No update.

SUNSET TREE CUTTING – M Reddick will provide an update via email.

PROUT FARM LOOP TRAIL – Motion by C Note, seconded by D. Elliott, and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners eliminating a portion of the Trail to the west and installing a crosswalk with signage, and fee-in-lieu of monies of \$5000 for the portion not being constructed.

BOARD COMMENT – C. Note questioned why there was no movement with the trees at Sussell Park. G. Churach said this is due to the weather.

C. Note asked for an update on the Hollenbach Master Plan. The OS&RB decided to schedule a special meeting of the OS&RB for March 17, 2021, to discuss the Hollenbach Master Plan.

D. Elliott asked for a Request for a Proposal for farming. We will need someone in the future to bail the hay for areas we may consider “low mow, no mow”. The OS&RB agreed to not send out an RFP but, rather, have staff contact farmers and determine interest.

R. Spaide contacted someone from the Hillside Aquatic Club and plans to visit the Hoffmans.

R. Spaide comments to D. Elliott thanking him for his efforts as OSR Board Chair.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion by C. Note, second by D. Elliot, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrri Griffith
Zoning & Planning Administrative Assistant