

A meeting of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, June 1, 2021. Those present were Greg Churach, Charles Note, Sherry Paup, and Scott Wagner. Also, present Sherri Griffith and Township Manager Michelle Reddick. Commissioners Cathy Paretto and Renee Spaide were also present in the audience.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion by S. Wagner, second by C. Note, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of May 1, 2021, as presented.

GREEN ALLIES – K. Hamilton requested to put an entrance sign up, so people know where to turn in at. They would also like to put a white vinyl fence on each corner of the entrance.

M. Reddick requested K. Hamilton to email her with what he is requesting so she can run it by the zoning officer before it goes to the BOC. They had a successful health & wellness week. Spoke about an app called Goose Chase which was a success. About 50%-60% of Pottsgrove residents attended. The interns are doing some trimming on the trails from Prout Farm to Sussell Park. G. Churach will let K. Hamilton know when Sussell Park opens back up for them to complete the trimming there.

PARRC - C. Paretto provided members with the information below.

**PARRC Report to Open Space Committee
June 1, 2021**

1. Sub Committee

Need volunteers for an events subcommittee. If interested, please contact MichaelLenhart at MLenhart@pottstown.org.

2. Website and Facebook

Tricia is asking everyone to check out the PARRC website and the Facebook page. She would like to post anything that we have going on in improvements, events, etc. If you have not liked the Facebook page, please do.

3. Grants

Grant Announcements:

PMRPC Fall Grant Round-opening in August -T. McCloskeyPAHWF Winter

Grant Round awards - C. Colistra

Schuylkill Highlands Mini-Grant Round - T. McCloskeyDCED

Multi-modal Transportation Fund-T. McCloskey

DVRPC -PennDOT's Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TA Set-Aside)
T. McCloskey

Closeout and Status of grants spreadsheets supplied.
Submitted by Cathy Paretto

INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND - C. Note stated they met with a playground company and made some revisions to mess around with different ideas as far as playground equipment. They are currently interviewing landscape architects and hoping to hire one in the next couple of months. Next month C. Note will have a couple of drafts for OS&RB to review. They are continuing to use Michael Lane's concept but going to the next level with an actual engineer.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Discuss enforcement of existing ordinances:

1. **Pets off-leash** ~ Motion by C. Note, second by S. Paup and unanimously carried to have the Police Department enforce the ordinance.
2. **Residents directing grass clipping into the street** ~ G. Churach would like an enforced ordinance for the grass clipping to go back into the yard & not out in the street. S. Wagner asked how it was related to Open Space? G. Churach said it is something he sees when he is driving around. All agreed to deal with it individually and C. Churach will send them to the Township Manager to handle.

B. Sussell Park:

1. **Ash tree removal progress. Wood chips to trail area behind the large pond.** ~ G. Churach mentioned the ash tree removal at Sussell Park is in progress. About 9 to 12 trees have been taken down and then it poured 4 days after. He recommended using the chips in the backside of the pond where roots are sticking up. C. Note recommends using a 6" sock which is not that expensive. After the trees are done, they can go to the BOC and request other stuff to be done without going overboard.
2. **Large pond losing water. Tricia recommends LTL prepare a cost estimate, then she would look for grants.** ~ G. Churach & K. Hamilton discovered the pond is losing water. T. McCloskey is looking into getting any grants available to get a study done. G. Churach is going to have more information next month on the options.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Status of Prout Farm Loop Trail** ~ M. Reddick sent an email to Mr. Mingy but still got no response. If we do not get a response and it is not completed within 90 days, the Township Manager will have to go to the BOC and request to move forward with hiring a contractor to do the job by using the financial security we have.
- B. **Status of Gilbertsville Road Trail Crossing** ~ M. Reddick spoke to the chief, and he said that Justin has different options & estimates of cost, so it is just a matter of getting together and deciding which option we are going with. It has been approved by the Board of Commissioners already. The Township Manager will keep us informed on the process.
- C. **Discuss Sunset Pond Cleanup cancellation. Investigate past use of methods to control algae** ~ The cleanup was canceled due to the algae being so bad, so it was not safe or healthy to do the task. G. Churach asked Township Manager to investigate what we can do to treat the algae. The Township Manager did find a

file on pond maintenance which shows we had an annual pond maintenance management contract for the two ponds in 2016. Each contract cost \$3,000 which included Pond Monitoring, Pond Aquatic Weed Control, Shoreline Aquatic Weed Control, buffer & water monitoring, Algae testing and controlling, etc. The Township Manager will reach out and see if that same company can come out and look at the pond and see what they recommend. C. Note recommended looking into getting underwater bubblers to help with moving the water. Seeking grant funding to pay for a study and/or repairs.

- D. **Discuss classifications of low mow areas** ~ All agreed to classify all grass areas in the Township under the 2021 mowing plan which is a once-a-month manicure cut. C. Churach recommended everyone to use the map that was given to jot down any areas that need changes with the mowing plan. The commissioners would like the OS&R to classify these areas.

CHAIR REPORT – Already discussed.

BOARD COMMENTS – C. Note stated the common grounds in Sprugel’s Run is not mowed. S. Wagner asked how Fox Hill Trail is going. G. Churach said it is going, and he is hoping there’s money left over to do stone on the trail. S. Wagner asked if we got any feedback on the resident on Mangers Mill Road. M. Reddick said a letter was never sent. G. Churach mentioned holding off till the Fall time and address the boundaries issue also in the letter. G. Churach informed the board that the sign at Grim Farm will be replaced on June 2, 2021. C. Note mentioned the signposts need painting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Renee Spaide mentioned all the small signs are all faded & not legible.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion by C. Note, second by S. Wagner, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Griffith
Planning & Zoning Administrator