

A meeting of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, July 6, 2021. Those present were Greg Churach, Charles Note, Dennis Elliot, Sherry Paup, and Scott Wagner. Also, present Sherri Griffith. Commissioners Cathy Paretti and Renee Spaide were also present in the audience along with approximately 12 residents in the audience supporting the archery hunt.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion by D. Elliot, second by C. Note, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of June 6, 2021, as presented.

GREEN ALLIES – K. Hamilton reported that all 300 camp spots sold out. He mentioned Sprogels Run trail is now opened and the trail map is completed. Prout Farm harvest provided 400 + pounds of veggies for 35 families in need.

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

PARRC Report to Open Space Committee

July 6, 2021

1. Sub Committee

Need volunteers for subcommittees. If interested, please contact Michael Lenhart 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, improvements, events, etc. If you have not liked the Facebook page, please do. PAHWF now has an intern that is working with the website and Facebook.

3. Trail Sensors

Included is the report from Tricia about the location of trail sensors in the PARRC area and the readings. As you can see Upper Pottsgrove has some of the most activity. I have noticed that 3 sensors will be moved to different locations.

4. Sunset Pond Algae

I mentioned our problem at Sunset with the algae and Jay Erb, PARRC rep from North Coventry, was interested in who we may be using for this problem. In the past they have a problem with “water meal” at one of their ponds. They dealt with Solitude Lake Management with moderate success. They are currently dealing some algae on another pond so any information I can give Jay about who we are dealing with would be helpful.

S. Griffith ~ mentioned she is speaking with 2 different companies to try to get suggestions from them on what we can do with the algae issue we have. She stated that one of the companies are suggesting waiting till Spring to start any treatment since our permit expires July 24, 2021.

C. Paretti asked to keep her updated on what treatment we plan to do so she can forward the information to others with the same issues.

5. Grants

Included is the report from Tricia about all PARRC grants. Craig from PAHWF said that there will be delays in opening up the latest grant cycles for PAHWF and MCPC because of the

number of grants that need to be closed out. I believe we are up to date with ours according to the spreadsheet.

6. PARRC Planner Quartey Report

Included is the PARRC Planner Quartey Report. This is a breakdown of the time spent by the planner on each item and on each township from the second quarter.

C. Churach stated that P. Mccloskey is too valuable to be a secretary & spending a lot of time on the computer. She is needed more on the field. He questioned is there any interest for an assistant in the future. Something that needs to be discussed.

Submitted by Cathy Paretti

INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND - C. Note stated that there is no current update and mentioned the next meeting was tomorrow and he will have an update for next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Presentation by PAL on possible uses for former Borner tract:** John Durkin gave a presentation on the outlining future PAL plans at the complex on Chestnut Grove Road. PAL would like Upper Pottsgrove Township to partner with them to secure an NPDS permit to implement the plans. The OSR Board is considering the proposal and will make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners at the August meeting.
- B. **Discuss resumption of archery deer hunt:**
 - 1. D. Elliot mentioned areas #8, #9, #24, and #27 (our map) to hunt. D. Elliot would like to make a motion to recommend the Board of Commissions to approve it to be an annual event at the locations above. Motion by D. Elliot, second by S. Wagner, and unanimously carried to approve the annual event.
- C. **Discuss suggestion to prohibit smoking in Township Parks:** No action was taken on this matter at this time.
- D. **Review 2021 financial report** ~ Did not discuss in the absence of M. Reddick.
- E. **Review 2022 draft budget** ~ Did not discuss in the absence of M. Reddick.
- F. **Discuss to apply for PA H&W grant:** Discussed getting a grant for a new parking area at Chestnut Grove Park. In favor argued more parking was listed as a need on a resident survey as there is nowhere to park at the main entrance. This would then become a shovel-ready project for a future construction grant. The match for engineering is only 15%, and funds would not need to be extended until 2023. Motioned by S. Paup, second by G. Churach, Nay votes: C. Elliot, C. Note, and S. Wagner.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Status of Prout Farm Loop Trail** ~ No update currently.
- B. **Status of Gilbertsville Road Trail Crossing** ~ S. Griffith stated she met with Chief Fisher and Township Engineer, Pete Eisenbrown onsite to discuss the options for a push-button crosswalk light. The engineer put together a drawing that was forward to Penndot. At this time, we are just waiting on Don from Penndot to get back to us on what we need to do to get this approved and done.

- C. **Discuss classification of low mow areas** ~ S. Wagner supplied a suggested mowing plan list.

CHAIR REPORT – G. Churach

*Natural Lands Trust sign recognizing the UPT contribution to the conservation easement at the former Grimm Property has been installed after many emails.

*Spotted lanternfly study by a Temple grad student is underway at Hollenbach Park at no cost to UPT.

*Pottstown library is conducting a story walk at Sunset Park from July 26 to August 12.

****Heather Place update:*** new receptacle covers have been installed. Charcoal grills ash pans are being repaired. Trash cans are being replaced. Rubber mulch is being installed on a trial basis in parts of the playground. Basketball posts will be painted.

****Fox Hill trail update:*** Work completed that is accessed from Hanover St. Stone installed to about 100' south of split in the trail at the bench. Survey area is complete. Easement request in progress. Approximately 2 weeks of work left, but on hold until easement is acquired.

****Sussell Park update:*** Ash tree removal complete. Still some logs to be removed at the access road. Wood chips have been spread on the trail around the pond. We have enough for future repairs. The pump house was the source for the pond at one time but was damaged during tree removal. A new one will be custom built on the existing pad. I will look into making this functional again. We plan on reseeding the area in the fall. Topsoil will be provided free from Kummerer project. The Giant foods grant was announced after our last meeting. No match was required, so I asked Tricia to apply. We are requesting 45 replacement trees, 2 benches, 2 picnic tables, and a 14 x 20 pavilion. Grant amount is listed at \$25,000. Conceptual drawing was provided to OS&R Board.

BOARD COMMENTS – None

PUBLIC COMMENTS – R. Spaide thanked the board for doing a great job. She also encouraged them to go with PAL.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion by C. Note, second by S. Wagner, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherri Griffith
Planning & Zoning Administrator