

A meeting of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, October 5, 2021. Those present were Greg Churach, Charles Note, Dennis Elliot, Sherry Paup, and Scott Wagner. Also present, Township Manager Michelle Reddick & Planning & Zoning Administrative Assistant Sherri Griffith. Commissioner Cathy Paretti was also present in the audience.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – No minutes available for approval.

REPORTS

A. Green Allies ~ K. Hamilton provided a report by via email.

Update:

November Community Recycling Program is being canceled. We will host our usual event in March/April. In its place, we will bring back our clothing and household items collection in early November. We have a planned workday on October 20th with a community group. At that time, we will remove all the stakes and ropes at Sussell Park and clean out the farm.

We need to look into stormwater damage that has taken place on three separate occasions this summer. Each time a 1-2 ft trench was carved out in the driveway (and parking lot – but we know that this water is from our land). We now stockpile stone to help with continuous repair. The water originates from above the arboretum and flows onto our property. It has also washed out significant portions of the road (Micklets?) Recent modifications in the driveway have improved the situation in the other portions of the arboretum.

The farm has been open to the public for the past week for anyone to come in and harvest any remaining vegetables. I observed people there several times. It will remain open for the rest of the week before we close it down for the season. We totaled more than 2,000 lbs of food distributed this year.

Coming Up:

October 15 and 16: **Family Night Hike:** An evening designed for young kids and their families. Story hike on candle-lit trails; marshmallow roast; games with prizes; outdoor movie; food and crafts. Usually our largest event of the year. 400-500 expected over two nights.

October 29 and 30: **Haunted Woods**

G. Churach, S. Paup, and C. Paretti attended the Gala that was held on Saturday night. It was a nice time and a good turnout. Their donations totaled approximately \$10,000 which Todd Hilsee will be matching.

B. PAARC ~ Cathy Paretti provided a report

1. We have an events committee that would like to advertise events and other information about all the seven townships. If there are any events/programs to be listed please forward them to iayerb@yahoo.com
2. Tricia, when inspecting the trail sensors, comes across sensors that are overgrown with weeds and poison along with bees. Is there any way that we can help with this? Possibly to just be aware of cutting out the weeds and removing some poison so bees do not nest. She is also having some difficulty with the wiring and may need to reach out to someone to repair it.
3. Just to be aware that when we receive trail sensor data you can probably cut the number in half because people are entering and exiting.
4. The Shared-Use Agreement is putting us in front of the DCNR because we, along with East Coventry, are the pilot program of this in rural areas.

5. Craig Colestra notified us that this could be the last PMRPC grant for a while because they need to apply to the DCNR for more funding. That is where they get their money from to fund grants in the Pottstown Region.
- C. Inclusive Playground ~ No update as S. Note missed the last meeting due to our OS&R meeting being rescheduled.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Discuss addition of “Pedestrian Crossing” signs at Snyder Road:** The OS&R Board agreed to order 2 Pedestrian Crossing signs @ Snyder Rd and to redo crosswalk striping.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Presentation from CMC Engineering on Hollenbach Master Plan** ~ G. Churach recommends removing cross-country course & 3rd field and have an 18 hole disc golf course as the township has enough trails. S. Wagner expressed concern and questioned why an amphitheater would be located next to the residence. D. Elliot asked if the pavilion is going to be big enough for 2 families and mentioned disc golf players like obstacles like trees etc. C. Note agreed to ditch the cross-country course but keep the 3 fields. S. Wagner agreed we should keep 3 fields. S. Paup & D. Elliot is in favor of 3 fields also. S. Waner expressed concern for the trail connection to Fox Hill and it may require easements. C. Note is in favor of amphitheater. S. Wagner questioned if the parking is adequate. G. Churach asked for the cost difference for 2 fields vs. 3 fields. Board has several questions to get answers for the next meeting.
- B. **Review of water treatment proposals for Sunset Park** ~ S. Griffith provided 2 different proposals for review over the next month and then OS&R Board can make a decision. D. Elliot asked to consider oxygenation for the pond. G. Churach mentioned getting electricity to it would be an issue. D. Elliot suggested a windmill for power or solar.
- C. **Status of Gilbertsville Road Trail Crossing** ~ S. Griffith stated that Pete from LTL Consultants is working on a final plan to be submitted with the application to PennDOT.
- D. **Status of trail sensor relocations** ~ M. Reddick has not gotten confirmation that it was done yet. M. Reddick will reach out to get the status.
- E. **Status of “catch and release signs” for pond** ~ S. Griffith stated they were shipped and on their way.

CHAIR REPORT – G. Churach

Fox Hill trail update: Deadline for completion: 10/31/2021.

Remaining work:

Install water bars and topsoil/grass on steep slope south of bench.

Install trash can

Install bollard and stop sign at the trailhead

Install 180’ of split rail fence at the south end

Possibly add more stone/millings depending on available matching funds

Sussell Park Grant update: Peco Green Region grant for tree planting has been submitted. PAH&W Mini-Grant for Trailhead improvements is being prepared.

Smola Property Update: Arlan Moser will till weeds under and plant winter wheat for harvest in 2022

BOARD COMMENTS – D. Elliot mentioned a tree limb hanging on Evans Road is very dangerous. M. Reddick will reach out to Justin, public works to let him know.
C. Note asked if we could look into cutting all of Prout Farm Field and other areas before winter.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

Executive Session – 7:56 pm real estate matter with no action to follow. Reconvene at 8:14 pm.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion by D. Elliot, second by S. Paup, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherri Griffith
Planning & Zoning Administrator