

A meeting of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board was held on Wednesday, September 15, 2021. Those present were Greg Churach, Charles Note, and Sherry Paup. Also present was Township Manager Michelle Reddick & Planning & Zoning Administrative Assistant Sherri Griffith along with Tricia McCloskey from PARRC. Commissioners Cathy Paretto and Renee Spaide were also present in the audience. Al Gryga, from CMC Engineering present to present Hollenbach Master Plan.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion by C. Note, second by S. Paup, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of August 3, 2021, as presented.

GREEN ALLIES – K. Hamilton provided a report by via email.

1. As per request, a list of community activities at the Althouse Arboretum was sent to Tricia (see below). The list ONLY includes events Green Allies hosts within the Township and that consistently maintains an annual attendance of over 50 people.
2. Minimal storm damage from Ida. Road leading in (by the Kehl property) and parking lot needed repairs which were completed on Friday.
3. Saturday, September 18th at 8:30am Bird walks with past President of the PA Audubon Society. Start at the pavilion in the Althouse Arboretum and walk down to Sussell Park.
4. Althouse Arboretum is one of the stops on the Pottstown Fall Garden Tour on September 19th.
5. Last two Farmers Markets of the year on Fridays September 10th and 24th 4-7pm
6. Annual Gala will take place both in person and virtually on Saturday, October 2nd. Theme: “One Community Under the Stars”. It will be an open-air event.
7. Fall Events:
 - a. Family Night Hike October 15/16th (Friday and Saturday)
 - b. Haunted Woods October 29/30th (Friday and Saturday)
 - c. Scarecrow-making Workshop November 7th (Sunday)
8. Farm Elwood’s Acres: Where Neighbors “Grow”

Activities in Upper Pottsgrove Township

SPRING: Community Recycling Day, Forest Easter Egg Hunt, School/Community Education Programs Farmers Market.

SUMMER: Farmers Market, Story Time, Hikes, Children's Summer Camp Program, Farm.

FALL: Gala, Family Night Hike, Haunted Woods, Family Scarecrow-making Workshop, Community, Recycling Day, School/Community Education Programs.

WINTER: Winter Festival, Christmas Tree Recycling.

**PARRC Report to Open Space Committee
Sept 15, 2021**

1. Website and Facebook – please continue to go to the PARRC website and Facebook page. If Open Space, Township or Arboretum has information they would like to submit please contact Tricia. PARRC would also like to have emails for whoever would like to sign up for a PARRC Newsletter.
2. Trail Sensors – On Tuesday Tricia was going around and collecting information from the sensors so we should have updates by the next week’s meeting.
3. Diversity and Inclusion Documents – this morning I forwarded to all documents about setting up a diversity and inclusion program for PARRC.
4. All Grants – I also forwarded a document for All Grants and their status.
5. Shared School Yard Grants – UPT and ECT are participating in the Shared School Yard Project. Tricia, Greg, Gary, and I met to discuss connecting the Middle school to Hollenbach Park. This may help provide the connectivity that the grant would possibly fund.
6. PMRPC Grant – I believe a new round should be opening soon if not already.

Submitted by Cathy Paretti (PARRC Board Member)

INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND – C. Note presented a draft of the sign.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Discuss possibility of applying for 2021 Mini Grant:** Motion by C. Note, second by S. Paup, and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to apply for the \$25,000 PMRPC grant for trailhead with amenities for Schwenk property.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Presentation from CMC Engineering on Hollenbach Master Plan** ~ Al Gryga from CMC Engineering submitted 2 concept plans to review, one with 2 soccer fields and the other with 3 fields. The OS&R Board will review the plans and wait to get more answers from the school about a couple concerns.
- B. **Discuss PECO Green Region Grant for Sussell Park** ~ T. McCloskey mentioned we were denied for the Giant tree planting grant so decided to apply for the Peco Green Region Grant for tree planting and (2) picnic tables. The total cost for the project is \$13,710 which the township will only be responsible to pay for half. Motion by C. Note, second by S. Paup and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to apply for this grant.
- C. **Status of Gilbertsville Road Trail Crossing** ~ S. Griffith stated she received guidelines from Penndot for the flashing lights and will be having an onsite meeting with Chief Fisher, Justin Bean, and Pete Eisenbrown to discuss the required changes that will have to be made to be in the guidelines.
- D. **Status of trail sensor relocations** ~ M. Reddick has no update. T. McCloskey stated she wasn’t able to find the sensor at Prout Farm Hook. C. Note mentioned where the location was as he walks that area frequently and he’ll check it out.
- E. **Status of “catch and release signs” for pond** ~ S. Griffith was requesting more information such as quantity, size, and what material. G. Churach said he would provide that information to her.

- F. **Review of water treatment proposal for Sunset Park** ~ S. Griffith stated there are two companies (Aqua link & Black Lagoon) coming out tomorrow to give quotes and will have more information for the next meeting.

CHAIR REPORT – G. Churach

Fox Hill trail update: We were granted a time extension to complete work by 10/31/2021. Appraisal is complete. G. Churach and M. Reddick is going to meet with land owners and give them the easement offer. M. Reddick ordered a trashcan for trailhead @ Fox Hill Trail. Public works will be meeting with a fence contractor to put fence around the Fox Hill Trail.

Throughout the Township:

Dead ash trees have been an issue with residents all around the township. G. Churach and M. Reddick have areas that have been identified that are bad and are working on getting them taken care of.

G. Churach announced that S. Griffith has been with the township part time for a year and has recently gone full time. M. Reddick stated she's glad S. Griffith can be involved with Open Space and help get stuff done.

BOARD COMMENTS – C. Note asked the status on Prout Farm Loop Trail. C. Churach recommends not discussing until after the first of the year. M. Reddick mentioned there is money in financial security however if we have to complete the job ourselves it's probably not enough money to cover it so the Board of Commissioners will have to make that decision if it doesn't get completed by the developed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherri Griffith
Planning & Zoning Administrator