

A meeting of the Open Space and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, February 1, 2022. Those present were Greg Churach, Charles Note, Dennis Elliot, and Sherry Paup. Also present was Township Manager Michelle Reddick and Planning & Zoning Admin., 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 – Not Available

REPORTS

A. Green Allies ~ K. Hamilton was unable to make the meeting but asked G. Churach to pass on that Feb 9th they will be cutting down 2 large Ash Trees and wood will be available the next day for free.

B. PAARC ~ C. Paretti:

1. I sent everyone copies of the Annual Report, Trail Sensor tracking, grants spreadsheet, quarterly report and the agenda.
2. The Financial Stability Committee is still exploring ways to become a 501c3 in order to be able to take tax deductible donations.
3. Issues with trail sensors is that almost half of the are not working. We might have less sensors placed and have a plan where they are most needed.
4. Please send Tricia any "news and Pies" about our parks and open space to her so she can include in newsletter or post on Facebook.
5. Tricia worked on an LOI for the All-Inclusive Playground and credited her time spent to UPT. She must account for her time spent working with each township. She did state the playground has in their contract with CMC that they will do all their construction grants for free. I don't recall but do we have this in our contract for Hollenbach Park or is this because this spans 3 townships.

Inclusive Playground ~ C. Note provided a report from 1.12.22 Zoom meeting.

Old Business

- Discussion and Action CMC Engineeringo
- Reviewed proposal
- Begin grant writing for cost
- Approved 5/0
- Discussion on sign
- Location near corner of Gilbertsville and Moyer
- Wording decided, Annique to finish graphics
- Present finale to UPT for their February 2022 meeting
- 501c3 approved

New Business

- Board meetings to become public now for meetings
- Develop a scalable donation tier
- Concentrate on publications for advertisement
- Research grants and grant writing
- T-shirt drive for 2.22.2022

Action to UPT-Open Space and Recreation

- Approval of the sign design and location to continue to be submitted to Board of Directors for approval

Upcoming Target Dates

- Spring 2022 - Payment to CMC for engineering and design, Sign installation
- Fall 2022 - First revision of plans presented to UPT for feedback

Next Meeting: February 9, 2022@ 7:00

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discuss Pottsgrove Little League Field use for 2022:** Mike Oxe spoke about problems with maintenance responsibilities and asked if the township could help. He stated there are issues with the press box, fences, dug outs and support post for steps. He would also like to get some water hookup or hose. G. Churach recommended that he would take a walk & inventory what is needed to be done and make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners and would like to reconvene this matter next month.
- B. Discuss candidates for OSR Board vacancy:** Gary Novack introduced himself to the Open Space Board. The Board acknowledged receiving his application to become a Board member, and was subsequently interviewed by current members regarding his qualifications.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Status of Gilbertsville Road Trail Crossing:** M. Reddick stated that the project is a lot more expensive than originally thought and it needs to be put in front of the Board of Commissioners again for approval. In the meantime, Pete from LTL Consultants is preparing a sketch plan along with details of cost to give to the board.
- B. Review grant request for selected trail paving** ~ G. Churach provided a proposed Trail Paving Project:
The OSR Board desires to pave selected trails in our system as resources become available. The grant cycle has money available for this in 2022. Paving has several benefits: Reduced maintenance costs, eliminated use of herbicides, ability to plow for winter use, and accessibility to wheelchairs and baby strollers. We wanted to start with our most heavily used trail, Sprugel's Run, from Snyder Road to Prout Farm. However, this proved to be a bit much financially, so we chose to stop the paving at Gilbertsville Road. This also allows us to gauge community acceptance of the concept. While each section is used equally, this portion was chosen over the Prout Farm link due to the heavier maintenance required there, and the fact that a portion of this trail at the Dallas property has already been paved. The following chart shows estimated costs to UPT. Please note there are variables; blacktop costs fluctuate, Prevailing Wage rates need to be finalized, and grant funding from PAH&W could increase or decrease. There will also be "soft costs" using PW staff to do prep work not included in the contractor estimate. No one can predict exact numbers on a grant application. This is our best estimate. Still, UPT can benefit from the funding in this grant cycle.
- C. Note made a motion to take paving project to the board, D. Elliot second, all aye.

**Minutes of the Upper Pottsgrove Township
Open Space and Recreation Board**

February 1, 2022

CHAIR REPORT – Limerick Township just completed an update of their open space plan. They have targeted 1200 acres to preserve. While 80% of the population supports the preservation, only 49% support an EIT tax to pay for it. The Bradford pear tree has been officially banned for sale by Pennsylvania. PA DCED is making grants available with limited restrictions. G. Churach would like to look into getting signs made for Sussell Park Pond stating the ice thickness & conditions are not monitored along with a life ring with a 100’ rope. The board agreed to address this issue for winter of 2022.

BOARD COMMENTS – C. Note requested a copy of the budget next month. D. Elliot asked to expand the archery hunt and would like to discuss in the next meeting. D. Elliot would like to see events on the website for kids to do things with police officers such as hike or fish with a cop during the summer. D. Elliot asked what the status with the Sunset Park cleanup. G. Churach suggested sending the Public Works crew back there with the backhoe to remove all the deadwood and brush. G. Churach recommended waiting until after a couple treatments with the pond before doing any cleanup.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

Executive Session – The Board convened in an Executive Session at 8:13 pm, with action to follow. The Board reconvened at 8:25 pm.

A motion by C. Note, seconded by D. Elliot to recommend that the BOC appoint G. Novack to a 4 year term on the OSR Board. All aye votes.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion by D. Elliot, second by S. Paup, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherri Griffith
Planning & Zoning Administrator