

A meeting of the Open Space and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. Those present were Greg Churach, Charles Note, Dennis Elliot, and Sherry Paup. Also present was Commissioner Cathy Paretti in the audience.

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

REORGANIZATION – G. Churach opened nominations for Chair, C. Note nominated G. Churach as president again and second by D. Elliot and unanimously carried to approve. G. Churach opened nominations for Vice Chair and nominated C. Note and second by D. Elliot and unanimously carried to approve.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 2, 2021 – Motion by D. Elliot, second by C. Note, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes as presented.

REPORTS

A. Green Allies ~ K. Hamilton presented a report:

Update: Holiday Food Drive

Students collected food for “entrance fee” for TWO activities 1. Winter Walk (Dec 12th) w/ games, activities and cookie decorating and 2. Winter lights drive-through Dec 13-17) where kids play games from vehicle windows. We collected 504lbs of food which was donated to local food banks.

Coming Up: Christmas Tree Recycling THIS SAT and SUN (January 8 and 9) 9am to 3pm at the Althouse Arboretum Arboretum/Farm Volunteer Coffee “Meet and Greet” at arboretum. February 19th More TBA

TWO large Ash Trees 1. Edge of Parking lot 2. Edge of driveway near farmhouse will be cut down. Received estimate from “Beyond the Leaf”. This will take place later in January. Lots of firewood for any local residents! No other programs will take place at the Althouse Arboretum until April. Green Allies will be very active over the winter:

1. Plan, design and host High School Conference at MC3 on March 12th
2. National Challenge Program to begin.
3. Education for Sustainability (Efs) program with the Philadelphia School District and local colleges.
4. Consulting on two other Community Arboretum projects - using Althouse Arboretum as a model.
5. Steering committee for the Pottstown Area Food Collaborative.
6. Plan and prepare for spring and summer programming which includes:
 - a. C2 (community camp). Through a grant from the Health and Wellness Foundation, Green Allies will be planning this FREE summer adventure camp for middle school kids from families in need. This year, we received funds to add Pottsgrove families (originally just Pottstown)

For Your Consideration

We are planning “1st Friday” Community Nights each month June through September to replace our Farmers Market. Do we want to co-host them with the Township / Open Space Board?

G. Churach requested Ken to put this on next month’s report so the OS&R Board can think about it.

OS&R Board all agreed to allow Ken to install an entrance sign for the Althouse Arboretum.

B. PAARC ~ C. Paretti provided report:

- a. I emailed to everyone the Draft Marketing Plan by Tricia. PARRC has reviewed and we will start to incorporate this into our meetings.
- b. Tricia wrote our letter of support for House Bill 221 which I emailed to everyone on the board.
- c. This week the Financial Sustainability Committee will meet to discuss applying for our 501c3 status. PARRC would like to be able to apply for grants as our own entity. It may open up other funding opportunities.
- d. At the December 1st meeting Tricia introduced us to David Yeck of the Yeck Foundation who made a very generous donation to PARRC. This donation will be used for projects in the participating townships.

C. Inclusive Playground ~ C. Note: Waiting on Harrisburg on the 503. All lined up and have people wanting to donate.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Discuss prerequisites for prospective new members of the OSR:

- Must attend at least one regular OSR meeting to understand the purpose of The Board.
- Must be available for meetings the first Tuesday of each month.
- Must have a functional email account.
- Provide a brief description of your qualifications and reasons for wanting to be part of the board.
- Must have a passion for Open Space.
- Must be UPT Resident.
- Fill out UPT volunteer application.

B. DISCUSS GRANTS FOR 2022:

1. Township Trail Paving
Agreed to recommend that select trails be paved. *\$25,000 awarded from private funder *
Finalize area to be paved and get cost estimates,
2. Road Parking and Trailhead
*Pending PMRPC grant for parking lot, connector trail and kiosk (end of January 2022
announcement) *Future improvements include loop trail, adaptive reuse of historic
structures
3. Sussell Park Tree Planting and Pavilion
*Pending PECO Green Region Grant (announced in Spring 2022)
4. Hollenbach Park/Mocharniuk Meadows/School Lands/Fox Run Trail
*\$12,500 awarded from Tri-County Community Network for trail on school land
*Master Plan for Hollenbach Park underway *Develop construction documents and seek funding to
implement final master plan recommendations *Funding sources: PAHWF, PMRPC, MontCo2040,
DCNR, DCED
5. Heather Place Park
*Repairs to play equipment *Add overflow parking lot, add ADA access to playground *Convert
basketball to tennis or pickleball, install fence along Rt. 100* Demonstration Garden, loop path
*Funding sources: PAHWF, PMRPC, MontCo2040, DCNR, DCED.

ON HOLD UNTIL DECISION IS MADE ON LOCATION OF NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

6. Prout Farm Park
*Determine priority *Improvements include crosswalk and safety signage, trailhead and interpretive signage, benches, improve parking area, add bumper blocks, possible pavilion and amphitheater, exercise stations *Funding sources: PAHWF, PMRPC, MontCo2040, DCNR, DCED. **ON HOLD UNTIL DECISION IS MADE ON REALIGNMENT OF S CURVES ON MOYER ROAD**
7. Chestnut Grove Park
*Determine priority for this park *Improvements may include: expanding parking lot, bridge over Goose Run, playground, ADAaccess, interpretive and directional signage *Funding sources: PAHWF, PMRPC, MontCo2040, DCNR, DCED
8. Kulp/Hoffman Field
*Inclusive playground Committee working on funding, design underway with Landscape Structures
*Fence along Moyer Road, add loop path *Formalize parking area, add pavilions *Exercise stations, landscaping * Funding sources: PAHWF, PMRPC, MontCo2040, DCNR, DCED, private donations. **ON HOLD. INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE TO INCORPORATE MASTER PLAN OF THE PARK WITH THEIR PROPOSAL.**

C. Discuss approval of new and existing signs for Green Allies:

Approval was granted for installation of a new sign at the entrance to the Arboretum.

No signs are permitted on UPT property, so the signs that were installed without approval are required to be removed.

The pavilion belongs to Green Allies, so the existing sign within is allowed to remain. Mr. Hamilton was informed by The Board that the student names on the trail signs are to remain.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Status of Gilbertsville Road Trail Crossing:** S. Griffith & M. Reddick were not present to give an update.

CHAIR REPORT – G. Churach mentioned that the Pump Station @ Sussel Park is complete.

BOARD COMMENTS – C. Note is excited for the new year & what will be done. C. Note invited the 2 new BOC members to join in one of the Open Space Meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

Executive Session – The Board convened in an Executive Session at 8:02 pm, to discuss real estate. Took no formal action. The Board reconvened at 8:25 pm.

ADJOURNMENT – Meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherri Griffith
Planning & Zoning Administrator