

A meeting of the Open Space and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, June 7, 2022. Those present were Greg Churach, Charles Note, Dennis Elliot, Sherry Paup, and Gary Novack. Also present was Township Manager Michelle Reddick and Planning & Zoning Administrative Assistant, Sherri Griffith. Commissioner Cathy Paretto was present in the audience.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM May 3, 2022 – Motion by G. Novack, second by C. Note, and unanimously carried to approve the May 3, 2022, minutes as presented.

REPORTS

A. Green Allies ~

1. In May we did programs for 5 different classes and even had lunch and did a program (in the rain) for DCNR's Drew Gilchrist and a few students he had doing a job shadow.
2. Hosted 7 community volunteer days to work on the gardens and grounds. Now have local residents "adopting" portions of the property to clean and maintain.
3. Had college and high school interns start this month. Already have put in 30 hours of time on the property. More will be coming in June. There will be a team of 4 students this summer dedicated to the Althouse Arboretum land.
4. At Temple University, I talked about the unique partnership between GreenAllies and Upper Pottsgrove Township. Became an instant topic of conversation and had several people come up to me afterwards wanting to know more about our work together!
5. NPR radio host Mike McGrath from "You Bet Your Garden" did a talk on Friday night. Well attended by about 50-60 people. Huge success!

Coming Up:

1. Summer Camp begins next week. Our summer is all summer camps...

Requests for approval:

1. Can we place a small garden under the road sign for the Althouse Arboretum to make it look better? We will then place ground cover and wood chips on the outside to control the weeds. This is one area that needs to be improved.
2. Is it ok to prevent people from coming up into the Althouse Arboretum during camps. Can we direct everyone down the trail along the parking lot to Sprogels Run trail.
3. Can I place white arrows on some of the trail signs to point people in the direction described on the sign already in place?
4. Can we put small metal signs throughout gardens and trails to recognize those that have adopted them?

OS&R Board were all fine with the first 4 request.

6. Pottsgrove HS Marching Band asked to have a fund raiser (movie night). Ken won't be involved but stated he didn't mind. M. Reddick asked for them to email her directly for this request.

They won't be having First Fridays and Farmers Market this year.

B. PAARC ~ C. Paretto Report:

PARRC Application for 501c3 Status: Looking forward to financial stability of PARRC, the board of directors has decided to apply for a 501c3 non-profit status. This will allow us to apply for grants that are open to non-profits. Attached is a memorandum that explains our position. The second attachment is a resolution pertaining to the application.

We are asking all 7 municipalities to sign the resolution because they are stakeholders in PARRC. I am asking that the OSR Board make a recommendation to the BOC at the next meeting to sign the resolution so we can proceed with the application.

Motion by C. Note, second by G. Novack and unanimously carried to recommend asking the Board of Commissioners to approval PARRC to file for 501(c)3.

PARRC Memorandum:

The Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Committee (PARRC) has researched the formation of a non-profit organization that would support PARRC activities and projects and help ensure the future financial sustainability of PARRC. Formation of a non-profit organization is included as an objective in PARRC's Strategic Plan. Funding to continue operations of PARRC and to fund the PARRC Regional Planner Position are a concern. The Regional Parks Planner works collaboratively with municipal representatives and municipal staff to seek funding for priority park and recreation projects for each of the seven municipalities, coordinates projects and administers grant contracts. Since PARRC's formation, the Regional Parks Planner assisted in the award of over \$2 million in grants to the PARRC municipalities and has applied for \$4 million in grants in the first four months of 2022. Additionally, the Regional Parks Planner serves as the liaison to partner organizations such as the Schuylkill River Greenway National Heritage Area and the Schuylkill Highlands Conservation Landscape.

Formation of a non-profit organization that is a supporting organization to PARRC will enable PARRC to directly accept funding from private donors and other non-profit organizations who support park, recreation and trail projects. Having a supporting 501(c)3 organization will also enable PARRC to apply for grant funding that is not open to municipal applicants.

Formation of a non-profit organization that is a supporting organization to PARRC will not affect the current PARRC setup, and the municipal contributions to PARRC will be handled in the same manner as they currently are. Additionally, the Board of Directors that would be required for the supporting non-profit organization could be comprised of current PARRC representatives. The nonprofit organization will be established at no cost to the municipalities of PARRC.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Discuss request from Summer Grove HOA for repairs at Open Space:

- 1.) Please maintain the township owned land indicated below in the yellow highlighted areas. This has not been touched thus far into the 2022 season, and there is both debris from recent storms, as well as overgrown grass in these areas that need immediate attention.

Township Response: This work was completed prior to the meeting.

- 2.) Please consider connecting the PG Hunt trail with the trail that runs behind Summer Grove (depicted below in the small blue/purple line along Pine Ford Rd.) by either extending the sidewalk to connect with the gravel trailhead entrance (red line off of Pine Ford) or extending the gravel from trailhead to the new sidewalk being installed by Catalyst. This would greatly increase the community connectivity between Summer Grove & Pottsgrove Hunt.

Township Response: This work is in the planning stages and will completed

when the walking trail at Pottsgrove Hunt is installed.

3.) The trail behind the Summer Grove Community (red lines below coming off of Pine Ford & Summer Grove Lane) is in desperate need of township attention. Grass is knee high; gravel has not been added / replaced since the initial trail creation date back in 2007 / 2008, there are downed trees & debris throughout the trail, and specifically in the open area highlighted below in yellow off of Chestnut Grove Rd. Township response: This area has been cleaned up.

B. Discuss trail connection from Summer Grove to Pottsgrove Hunt: (Part of above)

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Status on Gilbertsville Rd Trail Crossing:** M. Reddick mentioned speaking to Fran Hanney from PennDOT and he recommended the township to get a bus template before moving forward. M. Reddick will request Pete, from LTL Consultants to do the bus template which will give the township a better view on what option we can go with along with the expense so were able to bring it to the board for approval.
- B. Discuss status of farming at Prout:**
- C. Discuss Fishing Derby at Sure Catch Pond:** Due to the pond having algae issues it was canceled. G. Churach will be meeting with SOLitude Lake Management on Thursday the 9th of June, which is the company that treats the pond so we can find out why the algae is still such an issue.

CHAIR REPORT – Hopewell Community Church Community Day is on September 10, 2022. Anyone interested in helping are more than welcome to do so. They are offering all the proceeds from Community Day to be donated towards the townships Veterans Memorial.

We planned to have 15 Pottsgrove students to spread mulch but because of weather it fell through. They went to Arboretum instead and spread wood chips, stones and clipped branches along the trail for an hour and a half.

BOARD COMMENTS – C. Note congratulated G. Churach for taking the temporary Public Works Director position. G. Novack mentioned broken branches hanging over the Fox Hill Trail. G. Churach & M. Reddick will both go out and check it out. Also, there was stones on Hanover Street that were blown into the grass which now is an issue with the person that cuts the grass there. There's also still stone debris on the street which could have been brushed up. G. Churach will address this issue.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The Board convened in an Executive Session at 7:57 pm, took no formal action. The Board reconvened at 8:40 pm.

ADJOURNMENT – Meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherri Griffith
Planning & Zoning Administrator