A meeting of the Open Space and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023. Those present were Greg Churach, Sherry Paup, and Gary Novack. Also present, Planning & Zoning Administrative Assistant Sherri Griffith. Resident Jim Capinski was in the audience.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM January 10, 2023** – Motion by G. Novack, second by S. Paup, and unanimously carried to approve the January 10, 2023, minutes as presented.

**REPORTS**

1. **Green Allies** ~ 2 students, Megan McCartney & Alyssa Albanese gave a report:

They started off with a food drive which they collected 300 lbs of food over the course of 3 nights. All of the donations went to Pottstown Cluster and were distributed throughout for their holiday meals. They also did the Christmas tree recycling and collected 186 trees over the course of 2 days. They thanked the road crew for coming the very next day to chip the trees up so they could use the chips on the trails at the Arboretum. K. Hamilton wanted to express the amazing job that the public works did and coming so quickly. G. Churach said Chad likes to get things done and he will pass along the compliments to the road crew.

March 4th ~ hosting an assistant ability conference at the Montgomery Community College. March 18th ~ Electronic Recycling Day at Hillside Aquatics. March 26th ~ Our first farm workday. April 1st ~ Easter Egg hunt. April 22nd ~ Earth Day Volunteer Day. April 29th ~ Bird Walk. May 6th ~ Scavenger Hunt 5K. May 13th ~ Native Plant & More Sale. May 18th ~ Youth Empowerment Day.

1. **PARRC ~** C. Paretti was unable to make the meeting.
2. **Chair ~** G. Churach stated he did not have a report but everything he wanted to cover is on the agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Discuss proposal from Pond Works:** G. Churach ~ Because we had many issues with the company we have been using, Chad and I met with another company (PondWorks) and they gave us some solutions that didn’t involve chemicals and they gave us a price but we weren’t happy with it. Chad & I got them to lower the price. We are going to go with Pond Management Treatment & Pond Dye Treatment which is monthly. The guy from the company explained one of the big problems is the sunlight which is making the algae grow so he recommended putting black dye into pond which blocks the sun from getting in there and allowing the algae to grow. Motion by S. Paup, second by G. Novack and unanimously carried to recommend to the BOC to accept the one-year contract from PondWorks. M. Reddick currently has the contract to give to the commissioners.

1. **Discuss list of proposed projects for 2023:**

***Existing projects in progress funded by grants.***

1. Complete Fox Hill Trail **2.** Finish Sussell Parking Lot **3.** Pave Snyder Road Trail

***Complete Sussell Park except for future pavilion ~ possibly seek retroactive grants***

1. Install new well pump to raise water level (in progress)
2. Provide power from Met Ed to run the pump (in progress)
3. PW to install 2 benches at the pond (we have benches).
4. PW to add fishing dock (this will not change insurance premiums)

***Apply for grant funding for Hollenbach Master Plan Phase 1A***

1. Loop trail (discussed in agenda item New Business “C”
2. **Discuss engineering grant funding for Hollenbach Phase 1a (walking trail**): G. Churach referenced the Hollenbach Park Master Plan Funding Scenario Phase 1A. Motion by G. Novack, second by S. Paup, and unanimously carried to get approval by the BOC for the grant strategy for Hollenbach Phase 1A that was proposed by Trish (PARRC).

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Discuss “Yield to Pedestrians in Crosswalk” signs at Gilbertsville Road Trail Crossing ~** G. Churach recommends getting Yield to Pedestrian signs for now since the grant wasn’t approved. S. Griffith stated that we need to get together a better engineering plan in order to apply to other future grants which Trish from PARRC recommends.
2. **Note the Shared Schoolyard “Falcon Trail” project was approved by PSD ~** C. Davis got a price under budget.

**BOARD COMMENTS** – G. Novack wanted to know where a resident can drop chips off. G. Churach suggested reaching out to Ken at the Arboretum.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Jim Capinski ~ Expressed his frustration about the BOC not listening to him about things he recommended in the past. He also furnished us with a document from October 2006 by Stephen Ailes, Open Space Referendum in Upper Pottsgrove. He stated all his comments are to help the Township. He also stated that the way the table is set up during the meetings makes it very difficult for people in the audience to hear. He then lectured the Board what he would do if he was a member. This included notifying the BOC that use of the Smola tract for a municipal complex was unacceptable.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Not needed.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Griffith

Planning & Zoning Administrator