

Bondsville Mill Park Committee Meeting, February 24, 2022

In attendance: Rocky Stone, Sandy Moser, Charlie Lindsay, Jim Ladrew, Doug Freeman, Carl Capriotti, Arne Jensen, Jeff Nye, Joe Buccella, Dan Tieri, Hud Voltz, Luke Reven, Jim Buczala

Meeting start: 8:02

January Minutes: Approved, with minor edits.

Volunteer Hours for this month: 312 (224 Garden; 88 Construction/Trails Crews)

2022 Budget Status (as of 02/23/22):

- General Fund: Budget for 2022: \$10,252; \$7129 remaining (includes fuel oil for building heat; will adjust with Luke)
- Capital Fund: Budget for 2022: \$75K; \$74,831 remaining
- Capital Fund Garden Project (grants reimbursable): \$121,235 remaining for Phase II work (unchanged from 01/26)
 - Rocky presented a written update to the **cost and schedule for completion of Phase II of the Garden Project**. This was discussed in detail at the meeting.
 - Estimated cost for completion: \$190K for all materials and equipment rental. This year's remaining Capital Fund budget of \$74,831 will need to be used in its entirety to support this. 1600 man-hours are projected for the work.
 - Schedule for completion is September 1st
 - Machine equipment will start to arrive next week to facilitate hardscape and grass area base placement and finish millrace construction. Estimate about 76 hours on various Garden Project tasks.
 - Finishing material for garden paths (from Joe):
 - Glasgow selected as source of tan-colored path finishing material
 - Contact: Steven Combes (215-376-1408); Glasgow's McCoy Quarry, 550 E Church Road, King of Prussia, PA
 - #10 Screenings: \$12.35/ton
 - Need to purchase in spring as soon as it's available and hold (a concern with regard to stockpile space at the Park), or wait until Fall
 - Joe will look into whether Glasgow will hold it for us; paths could be finished at almost any time after completion of the garden
 - Rocky will look at other sources
 - **Lower Bridge Repair Issue:** Township will make bridge usable for us. FEMA funds need to be set; Luke will talk to them about interim measures.
 - Barring storm damage issues, trucks should be hauling in 2A modified stone by April 15th or sooner.
 - Matt VanLew is willing to provide Township staff and equipment to support the project schedule. Jim B will set up a meeting with him and Rock to discuss logistics and schedule.
 - Matt communicated that the Township has an account with Hansen for the stone material and can help with delivery logistics (Hansen delivery will be cheaper than independent haulers).
- Budget status approved by BMP Committee.

Construction Report:

Construction Crew volunteer hours this month: **88** (11.5 hrs on construction; 76 hrs on Garden Project)

- **Well Installation:**
 - Fracking was successful; looks like yield will be 6 to 7 gpm; depth to water is about 55 ft; 600+ ft of reservoir.
 - Will install a 3 phase 2 hp constant pressure pump capable of sustaining 60 psi and 16 gpm.
 - Will meet with pump installer later this morning to get manifold distribution plumbing finalized (volunteers to install before equipment arrives in about two weeks); wire size will be specified and electrician will finalize wiring requirements.
- **Building Work:**
 - **Building C:**
 - Cad drawing were made for stairs for building code approval process
 - Cut opening for stair unit and to protect until construction can resume, again, sometime in the future.
- **Garden Support:**
 - Amphitheater: On site cut list provided for Bob and Jeff; received first load of material from Lowes, then design was revisited and Cad drawings provided, resulting in the bulk of the first load returned. A 2nd load arrived and was placed in the Building A carpenter shop.
- Building Construction and all expenses not related to the Garden Project are on hold until further notice.

Gardens Report: Garden Crew volunteer hours this month: **224**

- A Community Work Day is scheduled March 5th to support garden work
- **Amphitheater:**
 - The gardeners continue to work on the Amphitheater; Charlie and friends to build benches; the post and rail fence materials on on-site.
 - Sandy has applied for a HPS grant to cover the cost of some plants (\$1K). If needed, she plans to apply in September to PECO or the Chester County Community Foundation for a grant to cover the remaining plants need for the project (\$4K).
- Sandy has applied for a grant to purchase benches for the Garden Project (\$9K).
- Beekeepers: Jim B will present the contract with the CCBA to the BOS at their March 3rd meeting for their consideration.
- **Expenditure/Reimbursement requests:**
 - Sandy requested reimbursement of \$110.29 for:
 - Amphitheater soil sample analysis (\$27)
 - Mailings (\$15.30)
 - Internet router (\$67.99)
 - Approved by BMP Committee
- **Library/Programs:**
 - Participating in Longwood Gardens Community Read program (for more information go to the Park's website)
 - Animals in Winter program had to be postponed one week (from Jan 29th) due to snow (50% turnout)
 - Backyard Birds (cold weather kept the visitors away, and a Redtailed Hawk may have kept bird numbers down)
 - Considering ordering T-shirts to sell (Sandy to cover cost will proceeds over cost going to gardens)
- **Internet:** Installation complete; service working.
- **Security System:** Jeff is looking into this.

Events (proposed schedule):

- April 23rd: Earth Day: Brandywine Wallace Elm School; Butterflies, Frogs, and Toads; restore Our Roots; Bees; Scouts; Gardens Table; History Table?; Longwood Community Reads; painting with pigments
- May 7th: Downingtown Library's Fairy Houses
- May 21st: Endangered Species Day
- Yoga in the Park?
- Gardens as Therapy?

Concrete Pad / Horticultural Gardens (Grant Applications / Scope of Work):

- The request for bids to supply plants for Phase III of the Garden Project is out. Bids are due by Feb 28th. We're shooting for approval of the selected bidder at the BOS March 3rd meeting.
- The extension of the Round 1 grant from the County (for Phases I and II of the Garden Project) will be presented to the BOS at their March 3rd meeting.

Trails Report:

- Continue to place gravel in areas of White Trail
- **The Tree Connection** spent 2 days with a crew of 6 on trail clearing and maintenance (including tree work). This was all donated services by this company. A formal thank you should be presented to them; they need to be recognized in some way for their considerable donation.
- Benches for the Amphitheater were redesigned. Materials were returned and different material purchased; there should be a net savings relative to what was previously approved for the purchase. 12 benches are planned.
- The post and rail fence along the top edge of the Amphitheater needs to be installed.
- The "Young Lungs" tobacco-free signs have been ordered.

Marketing/Fundraising:

- Sandy and Beth will be speaking to the Elverson Garden Club on March 1st (Luke to provide equipment)
- Beth will present on Zoom to the SE Chapter of Wild Ones.
- Wild Ones Executive Board to visit on June 24th; Wild Ones members visit scheduled for July 30th
- Hopewell Pack 8 and the Girl Scouts are interested in volunteer opportunities at the Park.

Parking Lot: No Report

EB Foundation: Sandy requested that the dropdown menu on the Pay Pal button specify donations as General, Buildings, and Gardens. This has been set up and is currently active.

Miscellaneous:

- Hud asked about an AED for the Park. This had been talked about in the past and approved by the BMP Committee. Need to follow up with Luke.

Adjournment: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 9:10 AM.

Next BMP Committee meeting: March 24, 2022.