

## Bondsville Mill Park Committee Meeting, March 24, 2022

In attendance: Rocky Stone, Sandy Moser, Charlie Lindsay, Jim Ladrew, Doug Freeman, Arne Jensen, Jeff Nye, Joe Buccella, Dan Tieri, Nancy Kirchgasser, Beth Watts, Bob Watts, Hud Voltz, Luke Reven, Jim Buczala

Kirchgasser

Meeting start: 8:05

**February Minutes:** Approved, with minor edits.

**Volunteer Hours for this month: 459.5** (279 Garden; 180.5 Construction/Trails Crews)

### 2022 Budget Status:

- No Report

### Construction Report:

Construction Crew volunteer hours this month: **180.5** (150 hrs on Garden Project; 30.5 on other tasks)

- **Garden Project:**

- Water distribution manifold in Building C complete
- Water distribution manifold in Building A started
- Surveyed and marked layout for Garden Project (about 25% complete)
- Work on West end grass and walkway areas (about 25% complete)
- Mill tailrace: uncovered large terra cotta pipe at East end. Inspection revealed some minor fractures; once the bridge is available for use, repairs will be made, as needed, and it will be covered with clean stone and matt.
- Concrete forms and rebar mats for capping the tailrace are complete; when the bridge is available, the forms will be filled with concrete.
- Electrician is scheduled for Friday to complete all necessary work for water service (connection of well pump and controller). \$900 already paid; heavier gage wire will be needed than planned due to depth of well.
- Water pump and controls are scheduled for installation next week
- Offset line pins are set for the balance of the layout work for the Garden Project
- 60G excavator is onsite
- Loader is available next week (@ \$2300/mo; much less expensive than the \$5000/mo from the previous vendor)
- Rocky's skid steer and backhoe are now available, as needed
- **Township Support:** The March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting with Matt VanLew was very encouraging. They will be able to provide the trucking needs for the main garden (for materials other than for the amended soils) once the bridge is available for use. The Twp will also provide man-hours and equipment for this for the Garden Project work.
- Work will continue on the tailrace and base material for the grass and walkway areas
- The project timeline (based on the expected repair of the bridge by April 15<sup>th</sup> is the beginning of October)
- Will store benches that Sandy has ordered for the Garden Project area

- **Building Work:**

- Fuel oil tanks in Building A have been filled; tanks in Building C are at ¼, so will keep thermostat at minimum.

- **Garden Support:**

- Amphitheater: Benches are complete

**Gardens Report:** Garden Crew volunteer hours this month: **279**

- **Amphitheater:**
  - The gardeners continue to work on the Amphitheater.
  - Received a HPS grant for \$869.60; If needed, Sandy plans to apply to PECO or Community Foundation in September for grants to cover remaining plants needed for the amphitheater (\$4K)
  - Sandy applied for a grant to purchase benches for Culp's Clearing (\$9K); talked to Matt VanLew about installation, if successful
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  - 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 presented the contract with the CCBA to the BOS at their March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting; they approved the arrangement pending input from the Twp solicitor. Contract has not yet been executed.
- **Expenditure/Reimbursement requests:**
  - Sandy requested reimbursement of \$149.02 for:
    - Fertilizer (\$96)
    - Pump repair parts (\$53.02; reimburse Carl Capriotti)
    - Approved by BMP Committee
- **Library/Programs:**
  - Participating in Longwood Gardens Community Read program (for more information go to the Park's website)
  - Need to develop a circulation system for borrowing of books. Will do something along the lines of what public libraries are doing regarding personal information, using an electronic/digital (not paper) system for digital security.
- **Security System:** Jeff has talked to SimpliSafe. Initial concept to include at least four cameras, two smoke alarms, and a base station.

**Events** (proposed schedule):

- April 23<sup>rd</sup>: 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; solicit donations of books
- May 7<sup>th</sup>: Downingtown Library's Fairy Houses
- May 21<sup>st</sup>: Endangered Species Day
- Yoga in the Park?
- Gardens as Therapy?
- Exploring having a professional speaker do a nature program (Dawn White; fee estimated to be \$200 to \$300). Perhaps charge a fee; ask Supervisors to fund?
- Contacted by leaders of Hopewell Pack 8 and Girl Scouts interested in volunteer opportunities at the Park (Tree Scavenger Hunt to be put together by the Girl Scouts)
- **Grand Opening of the Library:** Planning for June 20<sup>th</sup>. Parking will be an issue;

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

- All Seasons Landscaping of Aston, PA was the bidder for supply of plants. Their bid of \$61K was in line with the cost estimate prepared for the grant applications (\$58K). The BOS approved the selection of this bidder for the supply of plants at their March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. It was agreed that we should hold off on formal notification of the bidder until the bridge repair schedule is better understood, as the repair could affect the completion of Phase II work in preparation for the plant installation this year.

- The extension of the Round 1 grant from the County (for Phases I and II of the Garden Project) was approved by the BOS at their March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**Trails Report:**

- Removed debris from trails
- Fixed steps
- 2 more benches from Marsh Creek SP are available, with two more anticipated. They will be installed along the Christmas Tree Trail (White Trail) and the picnic area
- The tobacco signs are up at two locations (at Park entrance and along Blue Trail)
- It was suggested that The Tree Connection (tree company that donated a significant amount of man and equipment hours to do trail clearing/maintenance work last month) be recognized by the Township. It was suggested that a Certificate of Appreciation be prepared with a letter from the Township to accompany it. Jim B suggested he could prepare the Certificate.

**Marketing/Fundraising:**

- Sandy and Beth made a presentation to the Elverson Garden Club on March 1<sup>st</sup>, and received a stipend of \$50 (it went well)
- Beth will present on Zoom to the SE Chapter of Wild Ones on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Lower Bridge Repair:** Matt VanLew attended the latter part of the meeting to report on the interim bridge repair plans.

- A report presented the plan for repair was prepared by Pennoni (Twp engineer); comments were made by the Twp.
- Jersey barriers will be used in conjunction with flowable fill (to be laid in several lifts, each of which must be set before the next is poured).
- Need permit from PADEP, and engineering approval.
- Matt estimates about one week to complete once started.

**Parking Lot:** No Report

**Miscellaneous:**

- Hud contacted an organization for the donation of an AED to the Park (contact information supplied by Luke).

**Adjournment:** A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 9:50 AM.

**Next BMP Committee meeting:** April 28, 2022.