

## Bondsville Mill Park Committee Meeting, January 23, 2020

In attendance: Rocky Stone, Sandy Moser, Doug Freeman, Arne Jensen, Charlie Lindsay, Jim Ladrew, Hud Voltz, Jim Buczala, Scott Piersol

Meeting start: 8:10

**December Minutes:** Approved

**Volunteer Hours:** 305 + (Garden and Construction crews)

### 2020 Officers for BMP Committee:

- Jim Buczala – Chairman & Secretary
- Hud Voltz – Vice-Chairman & Treasurer
- Positions, above, approved by BMP Committee

### 2019 Budget Status:

- \$60,314 left unspent in 2019 budget

### 2020 Budget Status:

- \$3536.42 spent to date from Recreation Fund (mostly related to \$2500 rental fee from Able; skylift to be returned March 1<sup>st</sup>)
- \$148 spent from General Fund (Blosenski)
- Rocky will get information regarding purchase or rent-to-buy arrangement with equipment rental company

### Buildings C, D, & E Scope of Work (Comprehensive for remaining project work):

- Work on this task and the associated cost estimates in in progress.
- Last meeting regarding the issue was January 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Construction Report:

Total construction volunteer hours = (hours forthcoming). Focus of work on **Buildings A, C, and D:**

- Rocky reported on the status of the masonry work on **Building D:**
  - West wall is 80% corrected and stable; need to go all the way up to support the concrete ceiling
  - Lost four days due to weather
  - Committed to finish the SOW for the South and West walls, with some time volunteered
  - Cement & Lime: some more will still be needed; have enough sand
- **Building A:**
  - 40 bundles of insulation delivered in 2019; that's enough to complete insulation of Building A.
- **Building C:**
  - Work focused on roof: now six courses of shingles from "touch-off" (roof peak)
    - North Roof at 85% complete
    - South Roof at 50% complete
    - Tower Roof not started, yet
  - Windows: about 20 windows; Roger Stone is about half way through on parts

**Gardens Report:** Total garden volunteer hours = **42** (winter time)

- Sandy has applied for a grant from the Hardy Plant Society for \$512 to support the purchase of plants for the Park.
- Jim L and Frank began to clear vines from the race bank in the area of the Spinning Room (Building A); where plants from the grant will be placed.
- Sandy walked all of the gardens with Ginny Wright, a new garden volunteer.
- Sandy showed a West Chester Bird Club member where we are proposing to locate a bird feeding station (down-slope from the benches near the water tower). Watched a flock of Blue Birds by the nectar garden. Talked about setting up a display of birds that visitors might see in the Park. This would be located in the spinning room; space required would be enough for a 3' x 8' table.
- After seeing a large Blue Bird flock and with snow in the forecast, temporary feeders were installed by the nectar garden: a flat feeder with meal worms, a suet feeder, and a mixed seed feeder.
  - Luke has been asked to make a directional laminated sign: "Blue Bird watch"
  - There was LOTS of Blue Bird activity in the vicinity of the feeders on Monday, Jan 20<sup>th</sup>
- Seeds are being propagated for three different kinds of milkweed and other native plants for the pollinator area.
- **Gardening Action Items:**
  - Garden planning for 2020
  - Work with Rocky regarding tree removal and Park cleanup
  - Ask Matt VanLew when mulch will be available; help with clearing road-side butterfly garden

**Events:**

- Now own a loom: **Donated by Jan and Ray Bednarchik** (the loom is very similar to one shown in a book about weaving in the 1800s).
- There are several ideas for mill programs on the Joanna's Furnace website.
- Ground Hog Program Scheduled for Saturday, Feb 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00.
- The Winter Solstice Program was a great success. At least 55 people attended, with a wait-list of 11; note that we also had a number of walk-ins to the event
- The Nature Library books are temporarily being stored in bins at the Park to keep them clean and protect them from moisture during the winter season.
- Currently have 8 to 10 families registered for the **Ground Hog Program** (Feb 1<sup>st</sup>) and 21 registrations for the **Tallamy Speaking Event** (March 11<sup>th</sup>).
- **Events Action Items:**
  - Meet with Downingtown Library regarding a Partnership with the Park, and to set a schedule for the Nature Library at the Park
  - Plan Spring programs for the Park
- **Events Subcommittee:** Hud reports that Lisa Bowser is still interested in heading up Events Committee. He recommends that Nancy Kirchgasser (library) head up the committee until Lisa is healthy.
- **Potential Programs:**
  - Hike it Baby: no update
  - Pollinator Patch Program: Need a grant; Nancy to head up this effort
  - Mushroom Program: Rich still in planning stages

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

- The DCNR awarded the grant for the Garden Project (\$200K) towards the very end of December; with this and the grant from the County and match commitment by the Twp, Phases I & II of the project are now funded.
- Jim B and Hud have already met with Luke and the Township engineer on Jan 9<sup>th</sup> to initiate preparation of the Bid Document for competitive bids for the project.
- Will start the next round of grant applications the beginning of next year.
- Talked about soliciting for individual donations to the Park.

**Parking Lot Issues:**

- Efficient parking is still an issue.
- Need to move forward on implementation of parking lot design and distribute a written parking protocol to the owners and renters of the Workers' Housing across the street from the Park.
- Jim B will send previous parking lot design (already presented to the BOS) to Arne, Doug, Rocky, and Sandy.
- Hud will revisit this issue with the BOS.

**Trails Report:**

- Removed logs encroaching onto the trails.
- Charlie L is looking to develop another trail on the South side of Beaver Creek that runs down to the dam ruins.
- When the Park brochure is updated, a note needs to be put onto about the natural nature of the trail surface (e.g., tripping hazard/appropriate footwear); suggested wording from Twp.
- Jim B walked the Park on Jan 16<sup>th</sup> with Lt. Yankanich (EBPD) and Chief Edwards (EBFD) to evaluate access for emergency events in the Park (prompted by a medical emergency in the Park on Dec 25<sup>th</sup>)
- Mulch: will work out with Matt & Charlie L.

**Marketing/Fundraising:**

- There was a BMP article in the Holiday edition of the MM.

**Miscellaneous:**

- Need to purchase a 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Kit for the Park; approved by the BMP Committee.
- Chair purchase: Need 40 stacking chairs with a cart for the Park; previous approval for the purchase increased to \$1200 by BMP Committee.
- An ABC Fire Extinguisher has been purchased from Kistler O'Brien and delivered to the Park (Building A).

**Adjournment:** A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 10:00 AM.

**Next BMP Committee meeting:** February 27, 2020.