

## Bondsville Mill Park Committee Meeting, February 27, 2025

In attendance: Rocky Stone, Sandy Moser, Charlie Lindsay, Arne Jensen, Carl Capriotti, Bob Watts, Beth Watts, Nancy Kirchgasser, Dan Tieri, Sally Bovell, Bruce Rawlings, Jim Buczala

Meeting start: 7:34

**Volunteer Hours for this month:** Gardens – **NR**; Construction: - **90**

**January Minutes:** Approved

**2025 Budget Update:** (based on 02/25 Financial Report from Township)

- General Fund: (\$20,000 budget; \$18,000 Development & Maintenance/\$2000 Events & Marketing)
  - \$7257 spent to date.
    - \$4K for Fuel Oil (unexpected)
    - \$350 for boiler service (unexpected)
    - \$1487.50 – Weaver Mulch
    - \$189 – Blosenski (port-a-johns)
    - \$82 – Garden Tools
    - \$60 – Internet
  - \$12,743 remaining (\$10,743 D&M/\$2K E&M)
  - With \$8962 committed to the Gardens for vinegar, mulch, etc, the concern about the remaining budget was discussed. Jim B will follow up with Luke regarding the assignment of fuel oil costs.
    - Until this is resolved, it was decided that there is a hold on spending from this Fund.
- Capital Fund Park Development: (\$23,335 budget; \$10,000 of this has been earmarked for Bld B Masonry). No spending on this account to date.
- BMP Funds in EB Foundation:
  - Total BMP Funds: \$16,223.16
  - Unrestricted: \$7401.85
  - Buildings: \$4132.35
  - Gardens: \$4019.20
  - Grants: \$669.76

The Financial Report, including acknowledgement of the heating-related expenses, was approved by the BMP Committee, with the exception of Sandy, who indicated she needed clarification of the Foundation account balances. There was also a question about the \$8.63 charge for a screw and whether Open Space Funds could be used for Park Maintenance (Jim will follow up on these issues).

### **BMP Committee Membership:**

- 15 members were approved by the BOS at their annual organizational meeting in January; the Committee's ByLaws provide for 13 voting members, plus non-voting members for this year (projected to be 9 voting members in 2026. There was a discussion of moving two of the 15 approved Committee member to a non-voting status. Members considered for this adjustment included Jeff Nye, Hud Voltz, and David Culp, with the rationale that Jeff and David had not attended very few meetings in 2024, and that Hud was willing to make the adjustment.
- There was discussion about David Culp's involvement with the Committee and the value of having him listed as a formal member in consideration of his recognition in the horticultural community. Jim B indicated that he thought he could be listed as a non-voting member and/or be listed as the liaison to the Arboretum Board to provide that status. Others strongly felt that he should remain as a voting

member and that one of the reasons for his not attending meetings was his time commitment to his business.

- By a 8 to 3 vote, the Committee decided to retain David as a voting member, with Jim B, Rocky, Arne, and Carl voting against. Jim will follow up with Luke regarding the arrangement of hybrid meetings to facilitate David's attendance, and will follow up with David regarding his commitment to attend.
- It was decided to assign Jeff Nye and Hud Voltz to non-voting membership on the Committee, with all voting in favor of the motion.

#### Trails:

- All of the Christmas decorations on the White Trails have been removed.
- Putting two park benches together (additional concrete bench ends are still available from MCSP).
- Trails are reported to be in good condition.
- **The Tree Connection removed two trees at no cost to the Park/Twp:** One at the base of the Yellow Trail steps, and one that was a hazard to Building F.

#### Construction: Volunteer Hours: Construction – 90

- Building A:
  - Removed partially complete wall paneling
  - Windowsills made up for 8 windows
  - Back and forth on the heating system issues
  - Met heating oil deliveries for Buildings A and C
  - Reset air intake on boiler in Building A
  - Received 100 BF of Poplar lumber and started millwork at the Trythall Mill
  - Moved 200 BF+ to Shop in Building C
  - Started window panel system (decided to use wood instead of plaster, as the BOS indicated that we shouldn't be mixing plaster inside the building).
  - CAD drawings were completed for the window millwork
  - Regarding heating concerns, it was noted that the insulation was not completed in Building C due to the directive of "no further work in interior of C". The insulation for Building A will be completed as part of the interior work; waiting on direction for finishing the insulation of Building C.

#### Garden Report: Volunteer Hours: NR (no report)

- Work tasks focused on spreading wood chips in Culp Clearing. Sandy is disappointed that we've had no new volunteers step up and help with mulching. Her loyal Monday and Saturday volunteers came out to help despite the low temps, high winds, etc.
- A second delivery of mulch from Weaver's is arriving on March 26<sup>th</sup>
- The extreme cold weather of this past winter will cause some plant loss in the Culp Clearing (plant roots have not yet been able to grow deep enough to survive these low/long duration temperatures). It's hoped that the mulching will be helpful in saving some of the plants.
- Beth is requesting approval to apply for a second **WildOnes Grant** for plants to complete the Yellow trail hillside. The grant would be for up to \$1K. The purpose would be to remove invasive plants and replace with native plants, and to stabilize the hillside. There would be almost no maintenance requirements.
  - The BMP Committee approved moving forward with the application.
- Sandy, again, inquired as to when work on the **Building B wall** would be done (towards opening the West end of the Culp Clearing garden). Jim B had followed up with Luke on this, as the Twp is taking the lead on this task, and was told that it is not currently high on his priority list. Sandy indicated that she would not be applying for grants for garden work in this entrance area. Rocky noted that he's offered to review the specifications developed by the Township in previous emails.
- **Expenditure report:**

- Reimbursement to Sandy:
  - Garden supplies: \$301.91
    - Work gloves
    - Deet bug spray
    - non-deet bug spray
    - MD bug bite ointment
    - 2 large bird suit cakes
  - This reimbursement was approved by the BMP Committee, to be paid from the General Fund D&M.
- Mulch purchase (invoice for \$1487.50 was provided); purchase previously approved by BMP Committee (General Fund D&M).
- **Purchase Requests:**
  - Tree/Brush puller: \$190 (\$150, plus \$40 shipping); to be purchased by Luke from website
  - Milorganite (for lawns): \$80 for four bags (\$20 per bag); to be purchased from Lowe's on Twp's account
  - These purchases were approved by the BMP Committee.
- **Foundation Expenditure Request:**
  - Sandy will likely be needing to replace plants in the Culp Clearing garden that were lost to the cold winter (not yet sure of the impact). She requested approval of expending up to \$4K from the Garden Fund in the BMP EB Foundation (close to the current balance of that account) for this purpose. The BMP Committee approved this request.

#### Events:

- The Seed Sowing Workshop on January 25<sup>th</sup> was held at the Township Building and was well attended.
- A Rhus workshop was held in Building A on Saturday, Feb 8<sup>th</sup> by Gregg Tepper. His presentation included slides showing the Rhus in the Mill gardens. Vegetable soup was served, and Gregg led an outdoor Rhus pruning demonstration. Gregg also led a pruning workshop on Saturday, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Galanthus Gala in Downingtown – March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Birding Program – April 6<sup>th</sup>
- Beekeepers program – April 19<sup>th</sup>, May 17<sup>th</sup>, June 21<sup>st</sup>, July 21<sup>st</sup>, August 16<sup>th</sup>, September 20<sup>th</sup>, and October 18<sup>th</sup>
- Garden Club visit – April 26<sup>th</sup>. Sandy is working on something for Arbor Day (being planned by the Arboretum Board)
- Longwood Gardens bus visit – May 17<sup>th</sup>
- Garden Club visit – May 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Monarch/Endangered Species event in August

#### Miscellaneous:

- **Arboretum Board:** Sandy and Dan are working on an arboretum brochure. Jim B asked if he could participate and was told “no”, but that the brochure would be brought to the BMP Committee for review and approval.
- **Town Tour Program:** The BMP was offered a slot on the Chester County Planning Commission's Town Tour program this year. This was discussed by the Committee:
  - Excellent opportunity for exposure of the Park in a County-wide program.
  - There were concerns regarding the volume of people that might be attending the event, typically in the range of 150. The event is focused on a window of about two and a half hours. A shuttle to and from the Parking lot at the Township (to supplement the parking lots at the Park) would likely be needed.
  - It was pointed out that the Park was on the Town Tour program in 2018, with success (a shuttle bus was used), and we now have an additional 39 space parking lot at the Park.

- After much discussion, a vote was taken whether to move forward with participation and planning for the event; the vote was 5 for and 5 against. Jim B will notify the County that we're not participating this year.

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

**Next BMP Committee meeting:** March 27, 2025.