

Bondsville Mill Park Committee Meeting, April 24, 2025

In attendance: Rocky Stone, Sandy Moser, Charlie Lindsay, Arne Jensen, Nancy Kirchgasser, Dan Tieri, Bruce Rawlings, Dave Culp, Luke Reven, Jim Buczala; Visitor: Jim Redding
Via Zoom: Bob Watts, Beth Watts

Meeting start: 7:35

Volunteer Hours for this month: Gardens – **NR**; Construction: - **111**

March Minutes: Approved

2025 Budget Update: (based on 04/22 Financial Report from Township)

- General Fund: (\$20,000 budget; \$18,000 Development & Maintenance/\$2000 Events & Marketing)
 - \$5004 spent to date (excluding \$100 Holly Tree charge) April charges:
 - \$189.99 – tree/brush puller
 - \$299.98 – standard monthly expenses (Verizon x2; Blosenski)
 - Note that the \$100 Holly Tree charge needs to be moved to the EB Foundation Garden Fund
 - \$14,996 remaining (\$12,996 D&M/\$2K E&M)
- Capital Fund Park Development: (\$23,335 budget; \$10,000 of this has been earmarked for Bld B Masonry).
 - The only charge to this account to date has been Pennoni charges totaling \$3787.50 for support of closing the DCNR grant (\$2532 in Feb; \$1255.50 in March). Jim B proposed to Luke that these fees be moved to the Capital Fund budget for “State Grants” for several reasons, including: The grant should have been closed prior to the end of 2024, but was not due to the inefficiency of Pennoni; the BMP Capital Fund budget provided by the Township this year was given very specific tasks to which those funds would be applied, and this is not one of those tasks. Luke has left the cost of these charges with the Park budget.
 - Rocky suggested moving the charges to the General Fund D&M, as they’re related to the garden project. The Committee rejected this idea.
 - Jim B registered his complaints about the inefficiency of Pennoni during his discussion of the issue with Luke.
 - Rocky stated that the scope of work for the construction project is in jeopardy due to these charges (given the relatively small budget we have, these charges expend 25% of it)
 - \$19,547.50 remains (with \$10K of that earmarked for masonry work)
- BMP Funds in EB Foundation:
 - Total BMP Funds: \$16,754.06:
 - \$7392.20 Unrestricted (up \$290.35 from 7401.85 last month)
 - \$4132.35 Buildings
 - \$4259.75 Gardens (up \$240.55 from \$4019.20 last month)
 - \$669.76 Grants

The Financial Report was approved by the BMP Committee.

Trails:

- Trails are fairly clear; no problems. Jim walked all the trails in the past week.
- Tree removed from the White Trail (thanks Jim)
- Bruce asked about signage to keep people on trails (“Please stay on trails” near the entrance).

- We talked about the fallen tree hung up on the White Trail. It's not an imminent hazard. Rocky was asked if he could pull it down with his backhoe, and he indicated he would try to get to it.

Construction: Volunteer Hours: Construction – 111

- 8 window frames day fit (24 frames)
- Picked up donated Barn Frame loom and set it up at the Mill
- Work has to be done on panels:
 - No planer in the current shop; using planer up on the hill.
 - The Trifel Mill is also being used.
 - Using the shop at BMP once the wood has been serviced and straightlined.
- Back of Building C; the concrete footers have not been funded, yet.
- The trail behind the buildings will be closed during work on the Building C exterior; but will be open when work is not active.
- Building A will be worked on during foul weather, and as volunteer staff is available; focus is now on Building C.
- Rocky provided a comprehensive list of tools and equipment at BMP that are owned by the Township to Luke.
- Rocky requested the purchase of a professional orbital sander/vac system to facilitate the finishing of wood surfaces for the building projects (interior and exterior work):
 - \$1100 cost
 - 8 hole disk into vac system
 - cfm is much stronger
 - meets the 1 micron OSHA safety requirement
 - Luke doesn't support from the General nor Capital D&M fund budgets due to tight budgets
 - Rocky suggested using the EB Foundation Unrestricted Fund for this purchase. Luke is OK with this approach. The BMP Committee voted 9 YES, 1 NO (Sandy), and 1 abstention (Nancy); purchase approved.
- The interior layout of Building A was discussed. Rocky presented an updated drawing based on the concept approved by the Committee at last month's meeting. The layout was approved by the Committee with the following vote: 8 YES, 2 No (Sandy and Beth), abstention (Nancy).
 - Luke will prepare a more detailed plan based on discussions at the meeting.

Garden Report: Volunteer Hours: NR (no report)

- Digging weeds out of Culp garden.
- Mulching the front gardens with mulch provided by EB Twp Roadmaster.
- Preparing for ski club volunteers (planted the Holly Tree).
- Set up for Deer-Resistant Plant program.
- Meeting with Evironthon Committee (DASD).
- **Vinegar:**
 - The original approved purchase was for a large vinegar vat, priced at \$3K. This evolved into buying gallon jugs (concern about potential of freezing during outside storage during the winter months). Luke purchased a 6-gal vat +/- . There were several problems with this, but Sandy was finally able to spray 1/3 of the garden on April 14th and used all but 2" of the vinegar. Sandy asked Luke to double the next order and was told this must be approved by the BMP Committee before he ordered it (see expenditure report, below).
 - There was a discussion of support needed for the application of the vinegar.
 - Sandy requested support from Twp staff; Luke indicated that they didn't have the availability for this.

- It was suggested that a powered sprayer be purchased to facilitate the application of the vinegar. This idea was supported by the BMP Committee (see expenditure report, below).
- **Maintaining the Garden Volunteer Corps:** A concern about the need to maintain and grow the group of volunteers to maintain the gardens was discussed.
 - Dave will work on marketing the Park towards building the group of garden volunteers.
 - Rocky suggested day labor. Luke said NO.
 - Luke suggested returning some of the garden areas to grass. However, most of the existing gardens (outside the Culp Clearing garden) are well established and don't take a great deal of time to maintain; their elimination really wouldn't provide much time relief.
- **Building F Storage Area:** Sandy asked to have the storage area in Building F cleaned up to facilitate its use by the Garden Crew (table and chair in a space to get out of the sun). Some materials could be removed. There are three "bays": one for the tractor, and two others storing various materials. It was noted that the First Aid Kit is in Building F.
- **Grant Items:**
 - AXA XL: Grant application has been submitted; expect notification in July.
 - Wilds Ones: Beth has submitted a grant application for \$1K; has not yet heard back.
 - A Beekeeper grant has been applied for; have not yet heard back.
- **Expenditure report:**
 - Purchases from Sandy's Stipend:
 - Sandy ordered 100 pcs Plastic Plant Labels, Black T-Type Garden Stake Tags Water proof Plant Markers; 3 sets of 100 at \$8.99, each (total \$27).
 - However, Dave wants to use stainless steel plant labels, so Sandy will cancel the plastic label order (above).
 - The BMP Committee approved the purchase of stainless steel labels at a cost of up to \$50 to be paid from the General Fund D&M.
 - Vinegar: Sandy requested the purchase of 100 gallons of vinegar at a cost of \$2K (this is within the amount of \$3K previously approved). The BMP Committee approved this purchase to come from the General Fund D&M budget.
 - The request to purchase a powered sprayer for up to \$200 was approved by the BMP Committee (to come from the General Fund D&M budget). All voted YES for this, with Sandy voting NO.
 - Milorganite (for the lawns) has been purchased from Lowe's through the Township's account. Four 32 lb bags at \$19.95, each. This purchase was approved by the BMP Committee at last month's meeting.
 - Sandy has removed herself from the list of authorized purchasers from the Twp account at Lowe's.
- **Foundation Expenditure Request:**
 - Reimbursement to Sandy (from EB Foundation Garden Fund): \$74.20, for purchase of an American Wisteria tree. The BMP Committee approved this purchase.
 - Authorization to spend from the EB Foundation Garden Fund has been given by the Foundation Board; up to \$2500 may be spent between Foundation Board meetings. The BMP Committee is OK with this.

Events:

- Birding Program, by a freelance organizer – April 6th
- Dear Resistant Plant Program, by Gregg Tepper – April 11th (sponsored by BMP)
 - The program was held at the EB Twp Building and was a great success (lots of positive response/input).
 - \$445 was raised (\$300 cash, \$125 checks, and \$20 PayPal). Beth donated her \$100 podcast honorarium.

- Gregg was paid \$300 honorarium.
- Gregg sold 20 to 25 books.
- Beekeepers program – May 17th, June 21st, July 21st, August 16th, September 20th, and October 18th. They will be meeting at the hives for these events (Building A is not needed).
- SPOOM (Society for Preservation of Old Mills) will visit the Park on April 25th (tomorrow) as part of their Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference this year. They expect to be here around 5:00. Jim, Rocky, Arne, and Carl will participate to support their visit.
- Garden Club visit – April 25th (early in the day; no conflict with the SPOOM visit).
- Sandy is working on something for Arbor Day (April 26th, being planned by the Arboretum Board)
- Longwood Gardens bus visit – May 17th
- AXA XL Global Day of Giving – June 18th
- Monarch/Endangered Species event in August
- PawPaw Festival – Mid-September

Miscellaneous:

- **Arboretum Board:**
 - Sandy and Dan presented a draft of the arboretum brochure.
 - Luke commented that there should be one comprehensive brochure for the Park, and that the labels (Park name and logos) used on the brochures should be consistent with what has previously been used. Luke provided examples that suggest the feasibility of including information on the trees of the arboretum on a site-wide brochure.
 - Jim supported the development of one comprehensive brochure, with many of the other Committee members in agreement, including Dave.
 - Dave said he would talk to his marketing people about supporting the development of the brochure. The concept of a QR code for each garden was raised.
 - The view was also expressed that the Park should be viewed as a whole, and that a comprehensive brochure will help with that. Luke expressed his desire to see the various groups of the Volunteer Corps work better together.
 - Planning an Arbor Day event on April 26th. Tentative plans are to have a table in the picnic area behind the memorial.
 - Documentation for the Arboretum Board was requested; Jim will follow up with Luke.
- **Culp Clearing Maintenance:**
 - Bruce again asked about maintenance of the trails in this Garden. He feels that debris needs to be raked or blown from the trails, and some low spots should be dressed from the extra stone from last year's work.
 - Jim B spoke with Ryan Sipple, who is storing the extra path stone; the material he's storing doesn't have any fines in it, so any placement on the trails would need to be thin (can't really be used for filling).
 - The general consensus of the BMP Committee is that the trails of the Culp garden are draining well, and that no filling is necessary.
- **Tractor Service:** Carl (not present, today) was going to look into prices for the needed service.

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

Next BMP Committee meeting: May 22, 2025.