

Bondsville Mill Park Committee Meeting, May 22, 2025

In attendance: Rocky Stone, Charlie Lindsay, Arne Jensen, Carl Capriotti, Doug Freeman, Beth Watts, Bob Watts, Sally Bovell, Jim Buczala

Meeting start: 7:40

Volunteer Hours for this month: Gardens – **NR**; Construction: - **93**

April Minutes: Approved

2025 Budget Update: (based on 05/21 Financial Report from Township)

- General Fund: (\$20,000 budget; \$18,000 Development & Maintenance/\$2000 Events & Marketing)
 - \$5499 spent to date; May charges:
 - Charged to D & M:
 - \$99 vinegar
 - \$118.65 Lowe's purchase by Sandy
 - \$189 standard monthly expenses (Verizon; Blosenski)
 - Charged to E & M:
 - \$87.98 brochure holders for new kiosk
 - \$14,501.26 remaining (\$12,589.24 D&M / \$1912.02 E&M)
- Capital Fund Park Development: (\$23,335 budget; \$10,000 of this has been earmarked for Bld B Masonry).
 - \$3914 spent to date; ALL are Pennoni charges for grant support
 - \$19,421 remains (with \$10K of that earmarked for masonry work)
 - With \$10K earmarked for the Building B masonry work, that leaves only \$9421 remaining for the Building A and Building C work tasks. This is a concern; almost a third of the budget for Building A & C has been taken by Pennoni charges, which was not an approved expense to this budget. Rocky doesn't think we'll be able to complete the approved work tasks on Buildings A & C with less than \$10K.
- BMP Funds in EB Foundation:
 - Total BMP Funds: \$17,704.86:
 - \$7692.20 Unrestricted (up \$300 from \$7392.20 last month)
 - \$4257.35 Buildings (up \$125 from \$4132.35 last month)
 - \$5085.55 Gardens (up \$825.80 from \$4259.75 last month)
 - \$669.76 Grants

The Financial Report was approved by the BMP Committee.

Trails:

- Trails are in good shape. Jim walked all the trails in the past week.
- Might be able to bring the hanging branch on White Trail down ourselves.

Construction: Volunteer Hours: Construction – **93**

- Completed all parts on windows.
- Waiting on sander purchase.
- There are concerns regarding the walls of Building B; this was discussed.

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

- Weeding and planting in Culp Clearing (looking good).

- Vinegar: A delivery was received and is being stored in Building F; Beth has been applying it, still using the pump sprayer.
- **Volunteers:**
 - New Volunteer: Jim Redding, who attended our April Committee meeting, has been volunteering in the gardens (he is a volunteer from the Longwood group).
 - Kent has been reaching out on community Facebook pages (Downingtown, Caln, West Bradford, +). Jim R plans to post on his development's Facebook page.
- **Grant Items:**
 - AXA XL: Grant application has been submitted; expect notification in July.
 - Plan to do work supported by this grant in the Fall.
 - Wilds Ones: Beth has submitted a grant application for \$1K. She is in the process of pulling together more specific information requested by the grant administrator.
 - A Beekeeper grant has been applied for; have not yet heard back.
- **Expenditure report:**
 - Purchases from Sandy's Stipend:
 - Reimbursable to Sandy: \$26.49 for special fuel for posthole digger.
 - Purchased directly by Luke: 10 US Flags
 - It was requested that the BMP Committee approve the purchase of four wheels/tires to replace those on the cart used for garden work; up to \$50.
 - The BMP Committee approved these expenditures.
- **Foundation Expenditure Request:**
 - Sandy requested authorization (in her report) for a \$1070.54 purchase of plants from Cavanos. This would be paid from the EB Foundation Garden Fund. David has already been in contact with Emily, and a credit will be applied to this order for Penstemon plants. These plants are for installation into existing gardens.
 - The BMP Committee approved this request.

Events:

- In general, email communication should be put out to the BMP Committee during the early planning stages of events to avoid the potential for conflicts.
- Beekeepers program – 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 visited the Park on April 25th as part of their Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference this year.
 - Jim B provided a PowerPoint program regarding the Mill's history and gave them a tour of the mill buildings and a walk along the Blue Trail to see the mill race and dam ruins associated with the neighboring mill once in Fisherville. Rocky, Arne, and Carl also participated to support their visit.
 - The visitors were very happy with the program and provided a \$125 donation to the Park.
- Garden Club visit – April 25th. This visit went well, and confirmed the accessibility of the East Parking Lot for full-sized tour buses!
- Arbor Day - April 26th. Tables were set up to provide information to visitors about the Park's arboretum for this event. It was wet, but still considered a success.
- Longwood Gardens bus visit – May 17th.
 - The event went well; surprisingly, there were people from East Brandywine Township that were on the tour that weren't aware of the Park's existence!
 - There was talk of creating events to bring the community into the Park; e.g. open houses, etc.
- AXA XL Global Day of Giving – June 18th ; they will again be supporting the Park.
- Series of **Park-Wide Open Houses** being planned; the first would tentatively be Saturday or June 28th.
 - Planning for this will occur via email.
- West Chester Garden Club – A visit is planned for late June.

- Monarch/Endangered Species event in August
- PawPaw Festival – September 20th
- Garden Open House Celebration, Saturday, September 27th, 28th or October 4th.

Miscellaneous:

- **Building A Interior Design:**
 - An updated floor plan, built upon the concept approved at the last meeting, was discussed.
 - The display units along the outside walls are proposed to have 3ft wide doors; horseshoe shaped display. They would be open for display/ closed for meetings and events. Six of these are proposed, each about 30” deep.
 - Jim B will ask Luke to do a to scale drawing of the room that includes the proposed display units.
 - We need to work on getting Building C open for use (to facilitate operations/work on the buildings).
- **Outreach:**
 - We need to get brochures out to other event venues, e.g. Historic Yellow Springs (do a better job of getting the word out about the Park), and get information into our kiosks.
 - Get a Park sign out at the corner of Horseshoe Pike and Bondsville Road (this has previously been discussed with the Township; but the roads are PennDOT roads, and signage is a process). Jim B will talk to Luke, again.
 - Charlie suggested creating a Bondsville Mill Park poster for placement at other venues. A promotional card would likely work. Jim B will work on a draft of this.
 - There is a lot of interest in scheduling more tours (from previous events).
- **Park Brochure:**
 - David has his marketing people looking at this issue.
- **Culp Clearing Maintenance:**
 - Heavy rain floods (makes puddles) on the trails of Culp Clearing. Doug suggested putting holes through the boundary wall to provide drainage; he will talk to Rocky about the concept.
- **Building F:** Regarding the cleanout of that building, it was suggested that the fencing be disposed of (that will open up a lot of space). Carl and Arne will go down and organize/clean out.
- **Tractor Service:** Carl will bring a cost estimate to the next meeting (re maintenance).

Adjournment: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at about 8:48 AM.

Next BMP Committee meeting: June 26, 2025.