

Bondsville Mill Park Committee Meeting, July 24, 2025

In attendance: Sandy Moser, Arne Jensen, Carl Capriotti, Bob Watts, Beth Watts, Nancy Kirchgasser, Sally Bovell, Jim Buczala

Meeting start: 7:38

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

June Minutes: Approved

2025 Budget Update: (based on 07/21 Financial Report from Township)

- General Fund: (\$20,000 budget; \$18,000 Development & Maintenance/\$2000 Events & Marketing)
 - \$8480.81 spent to date; July charges:
 - Charged to D & M:
 - \$16.16 – Flags (plant markers)
 - \$189.00 - Blossenski
 - \$59.99 x 2 – Verizon
 - \$39.78 - Fox Urine & Opener
 - \$24.66 - Glue
 - Charged to E & M:
 - \$50.00 Monarch Watch Butterfly Tags
 - \$11,549.19 remaining (\$9732.16 D&M / \$1817.03 E&M)
- Capital Fund Park Development: (\$23,335 budget; \$10,000 of this has been earmarked for Bld B Masonry).
 - \$3914 spent to date
 - No July Charges
 - \$19,421 remains (with \$10K of that earmarked for masonry work)
- BMP Funds in EB Foundation:
 - Total BMP Funds: \$16,334.15:
 - \$7036.21 Unrestricted (down \$655.99 from last month re sander purchase)
 - \$4357.35 Buildings (unchanged from last month)
 - \$2770.83 Gardens (down \$560.84 from last month re plant purchases from Groffs, Cavanos, and Sam Brown)
 - \$2169.76 Grants (up \$1500 from last month re Beekeepers Grant)

The Financial Report was approved by the BMP Committee.

2026 Budget Request:

- \$1000 for programs (4 @ \$250, each)
- Funds for County's Town Tour program (will need a shuttle bus)
- We will discuss work scope and associated cost estimates via email over the next month towards serious discussion and approval of a budget request at our August meeting.

Trails:

- Ryan Sipple (Tree Connection) was out last week:
 - Weed-wacked the Blue Trail
 - Removed tree from Blue Trail
- New volunteer (Nas) is giving time to the Park to satisfy his senior project HS requirement. He could be used to support trail maintenance.

Construction: Volunteer Hours: Construction – **NR** (no report)

- **Building A:**

- Finished window treatments (assembled and ready to install)
- Sanding window treatments this month and installing.
- Moved materials from Building C to Building A; will complete ceiling of Building A.

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

- **Work:**

- Weeding and planting in Culp Clearing
- Discussion on the Monarch Day event (flyer was attached to Garden Report)
- Dealing with hornet and ground bee problems. There is a hornet's nest in one of the shrubs of the Culp Clearing. It has been sprayed; if they are still there, a professional will be needed. Jim B will talk to Luke and/or Matt about the Township handling the issue.

- There are currently four students working to accrue service hours for HS graduation.

- Plants in the wildflower garden above Building A have labels. These are wildflowers and will not be visible until Spring.

- There are many Tree of Heaven seedlings now sprouting in Culp Clearing; also seeing sycamore, Willow, and bittersweet seedlings.

- **Vinegar:**

- 10 gal of vinegar has been used.
- The gadget ordered to open the containers doesn't work. Waiting for the Township to come and open all the containers.
- Spraying is done only when the sun is shining.
- The vinegar is working but new spots of weeds keep appearing.

- **Animal Problems:**

- Deer have been wandering in Culp Clearing. Deer Out was purchased and sprayed.
- Hornets and Yellow Jackets; hornet spray purchased.
- There is a groundhog living in the Building D rubble, and coming into the Culp Clearing. The fox urine purchased from Amazon has been returned by Luke due to damaged packaging. The intent was to sprinkle the fox urine along the fence line.
- "NO SPRAY" signs have now been placed on the Bondsville Road guardrail.

- **Arboretum:** Magnolia in the Clearing is questionable. Request from PhD candidate, Bagley Lab Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology, The Ohio State University inquiring About Local Insect Occurrence – Pine Sawflies. Volunteer Anita will respond.

- **Grant Items:**

- AXA XL Grant: expect notification in July.
- Wilds Ones: still waiting to hear back.

- **Expenditure report:**

- Purchases from Sandy's Stipend:
 - Reimburse Sandy \$108.33, directly:
 - \$69.99 for Deer Out concentrate to make 5 gallons of product.
 - \$22.99 for Repels-All Granules (replacement for damaged box of fox urine)
 - \$15.35 for Hornet and bee spray
- The BMP Committee approved these expenditures.

- **Expenditures to be paid from EB Foundation:**

- Approval to spend up to \$1000 from the EB Foundation Gardens Fund for plants to be installed into Culp Clearing.
- The BMP Committee approved this expense.

Events:

- Beekeepers program – August 16th, September 20th, and October 18th. They will be meeting at the hives for these events (Building A is not needed).
- Monarch/Endangered Species event, August 23rd, being led by Connie Nye.
- Hardy Plant Society Visit, Sunday, September 21st
- Philadelphia Horticultural Society visit, Thursday, September 25th
- Garden Open House Celebration, Saturday, September 27th ; the concept would be something like the Culp Clearing opening day, with artists working in all the gardens. Planning to combine with the Pawpaw Festival.

Miscellaneous:

- **Park Brochure:**
 - David has his marketing people looking at this issue.
 - Jim B and Luke are looking to work with David on developing a 11" x 17" comprehensive brochure for the Park. The brochure would fold to the same size as the current tri-fold brochure.
 - David was not present at this meeting; Jim B will follow up with him.
- **Tractor Service:** The cost of the tractor repair was \$1740. This included general service, and repair of the hydraulic lines damaged in the process of moving rocks. This will be paid from the General Fund (D&M).
 - There was a discussion about the need for a counter weight, which would allow the removal of the back blade. The cost of the weight would run in the \$300 to \$400 range. It was decided that the operators would just need to continue to be careful about being sure the blade is clear of contacts during maneuvering.
- **Miscellaneous:**
 - Sandy asked Jim B to inquire about the Monarch Tags.
 - Tailrace Cap Stones: There was a discussion about use of the cap stones for Park benches. This use was supported by all present at the meeting.
 - There is a need for someone on the BMP Committee to run/manage **Events**.

Adjournment: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at about 9:00 AM.

Next BMP Committee meeting: August 28, 2025.