

Bondsville Mill Park Committee Meeting, August 28, 2025

In attendance: Rocky Stone, Sandy Moser, Charlie Lindsay, Arne Jensen, Carl Capriotti, Bob Watts, Beth Watts, Dan Tieri, Nancy Kirchgasser, Bruce Rawllings David Culp, Jim Buczala, Luke Reven, Noah Stribrny

Meeting start: 7:35

Volunteer Hours for this month: Gardens – **NR**; Construction: - **43**

July Minutes: Approved

2025 Budget Update: (based on 08/27 Financial Report from Township)

- General Fund: (\$20,000 budget; \$18,000 Development & Maintenance/\$2000 Events & Marketing)
 - \$10,370.61 spent to date; August charges:
 - Charged to D & M:
 - \$1740.45 – Tractor maintenance/repair
 - \$108.33 – Bee and critter repellent
 - \$189.00 – Bolenski
 - \$59.99 – Verizon
 - (\$25.00) – Credit for fox urine return
 - Charged to E & M: No charges
 - \$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 August Charges
 - \$19,421 remains (with \$10K of that earmarked for masonry work)
- BMP Funds in EB Foundation:
 - Total BMP Funds: \$15,090.09:
 - \$7036.21 Unrestricted (unchanged from last month)
 - \$4357.35 Buildings (unchanged from last month)
 - \$1526.77 Gardens (down \$1244.06 from last month re plant purchases from Cavanos)
 - \$2169.76 Grants (unchanged from last month)

The Financial Report was approved by the BMP Committee.

2026 Budget Request:

- Rocky is leaving the Park project; there is no clear scope of work for 2026. Bob suggested a place-holder of \$16K.
- Sandy estimates that she will need \$11,325 (plus vinegar), and provided a written breakdown of her request for the spreadsheet.
- A special meeting was set for September 11th to further resolve the budget request for 2026.

Construction: Volunteer Hours: Construction – **43**

- **Building A:**
 - Finished installing paneled window jambs
 - Started on Window Casing Frames
- **Future:**
 - Will complete the interior of Building A

- Window trim, walls, ceiling section, minimal upstairs, and complete the installation of insulation
- Haul BMP lumber (purchased several years ago for the Building C flooring and stored at Rocky's Trythall shop) to the Park for storage
- Rocky will personally stop his work for the Park upon completion of Building A

Recognition of Rocky Stone's service to the Township's BMP Project: The Committee recognized and thanked Rocky for his extraordinary service to the Park and Township since taking a lead role in the Park project around 2012. His leadership in the rehabilitation of the historic mill buildings cannot be understated, as well as his support for all other aspects of the Park, including Culp Clearing, which would not have happened without his taking over responsibility for conducting and managing all aspects of Phase II of that project. Beyond his leadership and experience to the project, his donations of materials and cost savings in their procurement, and the donated use of personal construction vehicles were also very significant. His loss to us is huge.

Trails:

- Markers for the trails are needed; Charlie will handle.
- Need to replace the "you are here" signs (currently they are simple laminated paper).
- Weed whacking continues.
- No more need for benches from Marsh Creek SP (currently ends for one and a half benches are being stored at the Park); there are three more at Marsh Creek SP, if needed, but Charlie doesn't see the need
- Motorcycle Dave has been great support for trail clearing and widening work, specifically along the trail behind the mill buildings.
- Cuttings along the trail behind the mill buildings need to be dragged down to the new parking lot for chipping by the Township; the student helper will be asked to do this.

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

- Work:
 - Weeding, planting in Culp Clearing, upper race trail
 - Motorcycle Dave has cut down many invasives long the Red Trail (behind the mill buildings); removal was discussed, above.
 - September is going to be very busy in the gardens; working to put us on the "map".
 - Luke recommended holding off on planting along the Red Trail in the area of the building work.
 - Sandy will communicate the tree planting plan (re the trees to be purchased with the AXA XL Grant).
- Animal Problems:
 - Hornets and Yellow Jackets; the Township arranged to have hornets sprayed with approval of CCBA.
- **Arboretum:** The display table at the Monarchs and More event had a lot of interest. Arb trees in the creek area have yellow bows.
- **Grant Items:**
 - AXA XL Grant: Approved for \$7545. A meeting is needed ASAP to decide on tree purchases and locations. John Cassels is assisting.
 - Beekeeper Grant: Approved for \$1500.
 - About \$500 for pollinator plants were purchased from PA Master Watershed program, to be planted 10/04 or 10/11.
 - Wilds Ones: still waiting to hear back.
- **Expenditure report:**
 - Purchases from Sandy's Stipend:
 - \$12.99 for 3 kneeling pads; purchased to Twp Account at Hatts Hardware
 - \$37.44 for bee insecticides (reimburse Bruce)
 - The BMP Committee approved these expenditures.

- There was a request to purchase 8 2" x 4" boards from the Twp account at Lowe's; the BMP Committee approved this purchase.
- **Expenditures to be paid from EB Foundation:**
 - Grants:
 - \$594 for plants from PA Master Watershed Steward Native Tree and Shrub sale; funds provided by \$1500 Beekeepers Grant. The BMP Committee approved the spending from this \$1500 grant, as a whole.
 - Approved spending the \$7545 AXA XL Grant for the purchase of native trees and/or woody shrubs (in accordance with the purpose of the grant) upon receipt of the funds.
 - Garden Fund:
 - \$500 for purchase of spring flowering bulbs.
 - The BMP Committee approved these expenditures.

Events:

- Beekeepers program – 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, went very well.
- Native Plant Society visit, September 20th
- Hardy Plant Society Visit, Sunday, September 21st
- Philadelphia Horticultural Society visit, Thursday, September 25th
- Garden Open House Celebration, Saturday, September 27th; will combine with the Pawpaw Festival.
- Cub Scout Pack 8 Service Day: Raking and picking up walnuts, October 6th, 6pm.
- Keep PA Beautiful "Planting for Pollinators", October 11th. Will present advertising and put out newsletter on it (advertising for 25 volunteers).

Miscellaneous:

- **Park Brochure:**
 - More brochures are needed. The purchase of 400 brochures of the existing design was approved by the BMP Committee.

Adjournment: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at about 9:29 AM.

Next BMP Committee meeting: September 24, 2025.