

Bondsville Mill Park Committee Meeting, September 25, 2025

In attendance: Sandy Moser, Charlie Lindsay, Arne Jensen, Carl Capriotti, Bruce Rawllings, Doug Freeman, Jim Buczala, Noah Stribrny

Meeting start: 7:36

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

August Minutes: Approved

2025 Budget Update: (based on 09/22 Financial Report from Township)

- General Fund: (\$20,000 budget; \$18,000 Development & Maintenance/\$2000 Events & Marketing)
 - \$10,818.99 spent to date; September charges:
 - Charged to D & M:
 - \$38.97 – Kneeling pads
 - \$37.44 – Hornet spray
 - \$189.00 - Bolenski
 - Charged to E & M:
 - \$87.98 Brochure Holders
 - \$44.99 – American Flags
 - \$50.00 – Butterfly Tags
 - \$9,181.01 remaining (\$7363.98 D&M / \$1817.03 E&M)
- Capital Fund Park Development: (\$23,335 budget; \$10,000 of this has been earmarked for Bld B Masonry).
 - \$3935.96 spent to date
 - \$21.96 – 8 2" x 4" boards
 - \$19,399.04 remains
- BMP Funds in EB Foundation: No update this month.

The Financial Report was approved by the BMP Committee.

2026 Budget Request:

- Jim B made a presentation to the Twp Budget Committee on September 16th.
- Total request was for \$60,098:
 - Included all of the information provided to Jim B via Committee meetings and emails up to September 15th.
 - Asked for a “place-holder” of \$19,575 for building work (estimate for Building C north-side work from last year’s request), with the argument that deliberate decisions would be made for spending using the approval protocol already set up.
 - The cost of the masonry work for Building B was not included.

Trails:

- Cleared branches cut from the trail along north side of the Buildings; Township chipped them.
- Jim Redding has been sanding the garden chairs.
- Charlie is working on “you are here” signs (working with Alexis).
- More trail markers are needed. Several options were discussed:
 - Painted wood markers
 - Paint on trees using a stencil
 - Arrows
- A new volunteer, Glen, is providing support for the trails.

- Need new private property signs.
- People have complained about the pipes on the Blue Trail. It would be very difficult to remove them; it was suggested that the graffiti be painted over.

Construction: Volunteer Hours: **NR**

- **Building A:**
 - Window boxes in place.
 - Started interior wall sidings.
- **Building C:** Gutters are needed for the building. An estimate will be provided at the next meeting.
- **Building F:**
 - Repair of the roof could happen this year; need an estimate for material cost.
 - A question was raised about the Twp public works crew doing the roof work (since it was the Twp that damaged it several years ago); it was noted that they were replacing the roof on one of the pavilions at the Community Park, and that this would be in line with that. Noah and Jim B will talk to Luke about this.

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

- Work:
 - Weeding, planting in Culp Clearing, and watering (primarily the new plants in the Culp Clearing).
 - Prep for garden tours.
 - Fall pumpkin display: purchase of decorations donated by the gardeners.
- **Expenditure report:**
 - Reimbursement to Sandy:
 - \$629.64 for plants ordered from PSU Cooperative Extension (from the EB Foundation Grants Fund). This is covered by the \$1500 CCBA grant.
 - Purchases from Sandy's Stipend:
 - \$25.39 for tung oil and brush cleaner regarding the refinishing of the garden chairs; charged to the Twp account at Hatts Hardware (General Fund, D&M).
 - The BMP Committee approved these expenditures.
- **Expenditures to be paid from EB Foundation:**
 - Grants:
 - Note the \$629.64 expense to this fund to be reimbursed to Sandy (above).
 - Gardens:
 - \$175 for Magnolia tree purchased from Sam Brown's to replace a dead one in Culp Clearing.
 - The BMP Committee approved these expenditures.
- **Future Expenditure Approval:** Sandy requested approval to spend from the BMP General Fund (D&M) for the following items:
 - \$250 – Tree wrap for 15 trees (8" x 100 yds), 4 rolls @ \$55/each.
 - \$200 – Bird Seed
 - \$125 – for pop-up canopy
 - \$400 – Deer repellent (2 containers of 5 gal concentrate; makes 50 gal)
 - \$100 – 2 radius shovels (\$49, each)
 - \$120 – Milorganite for the lawns (6 bags of 32 lb from Lowe's (\$19.95, each)
 - \$90 – Fuel for post-hole digger (3 cans)
 - TOTAL: \$1285
 - These purchases were approved by the BMP Committee
- **Expenditure Discussion:** There was a discussion regarding the need to understand garden projects ahead of plant purchases and the scheduling of event/volunteer events (specifically regarding the maintenance and creation of gardens). The core subject that prompted this discussion was the decision by the gardeners to clear the upper headrace of the Park (in the area of the bird watch) of weeds and the

installation of plants already purchased. There is a concern with the addition of garden areas that will continue to need maintenance going forward. The October 11th event will include volunteer support focusing on this area. As the plants have already been purchased, the Committee did not formally disapprove of the work.

- Noah will work with Luke to clarify Twp guidance on this issue.
- There was also a discussion about the blanket approvals for spending from the EB Foundation Grants fund. Beyond needing to understand the purpose of the plant purchases (where they are to be installed at the Park), updates on the grant expenditures and the resulting balances should be understood.
 - Sandy has agreed to provide a grant balance summary at the monthly Committee meetings with her gardens report.
- **Note from October Meeting that September minutes are approved with the following edits provided by Sandy:**

The left race area (The Left Race or Bird Race) was under question whether it was a “new garden” - it is not a new garden.

Previous plantings in the Left-Race were funded by a grant from the Hardy Plant Society in 2023. At that time, we purchased and planted 2 Viburnum, 3 Ilex Winterberries, 6 Aronia and various herbaceous plants.

In Spring of 2024, the Gardeners experimented with ‘live staking’. These cuttings were added to the Left-Race Garden. Three elderberry plants, several nannyberry plants and 2 red-twig dogwoods successfully rooted.

Prior to 2023, the following plants had been planted in the Left Race: Magnolia tree, two Pawpaw trees, a witch hazel tree, and an American holly tree (died the winter of 2024) and numerous herbaceous plants: Virginia Bluebells, Golden Alexander, Swamp milkweed, heuchera, coreopsis, boneset, senna.

September 11, 2025, the following plants were added to the Left Race:

3 Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*); 3 False Indigo Bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*); 1 Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*); 3 Pussy Willow (*Salix discolor*); 3 Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*).

To be very clear since 3 Pussy Willow and 2 Pawpaw plants from the Watershed purchase are not included above - these plants are to be planted in the new parking lot’s Rain Garden - **an existing garden**.

Events:

- Beekeepers program – October 18th. They will be meeting at the hives for these events (Building A is not needed).
- Native Plant Society visit, September 20th and the Hardy Plant Society, Sunday, September 21st visits went well. All were impressed with how the plants in the Culp Clearing have filled in.
- Philadelphia Horticultural Society visit, today, 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). Scouts and students interested in working on a conservation project

have been invited to help. The Giant grocery store has provided a \$50 food certificate and PennDOT is providing heavy duty work gloves and trash bags for this event. The Chester County Planning Commission's Sustainability Committee is also providing support.

- Nothing else has been planned beyond this for this year.

Miscellaneous:

- **Park Brochure:**
 - A box of newly printed brochures are available for use.
 - The brochure for the Park still needs to be updated.
- Signs in the Park need to be updated (maps do not include the additions of the Culp Clearing and the new parking lot).

Adjournment: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at about 9:20 AM.

Next BMP Committee meeting: October 23, 2025.