



POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

140 College Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464 | PARRCoordinator@gmail.com | 484-945-0200

PARRC MEETING NOTES SUMMARY

August 26, 2015

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

@PAHWF

In attendance:

John Phelps, Solitude Lake Management

Jay Erb, North Coventry Township

Donna Fabry, Montgomery County

Pete Hiryak, Douglass Township

Justin Keller, Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Coordinator

Carol Lewis, Upper Pottsgrove Township

Ashley Pultorak, Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation (PAHWF)

Tom Troutman, Lower Pottsgrove Township

Charlie Valentine, West Pottsgrove Township

Meeting notes:

1. The meeting began with a presentation summarizing the findings of the Upper Pottsgrove Pond Management Study by John Phelps of Solitude Lake Management.
 - a. One of the main issues at both of the ponds were high phosphorus levels. John P. mentioned this could be better controlled by installing vegetated buffer strips adjacent to all contributing tributaries as well as the ponds themselves. He added that Swamp Milkweed works great as a pond buffer plant. Other measures to reduce phosphorus is to make sure livestock is separated from waterways with fencing. Township ordinances could be revised to promote both initiatives along with better outreach and education.
 - b. John P. also stated that the introduction of aquatic vegetation could help absorb nutrient levels. An attendee asked if Lilly pads would be good to block sunlight and reduce nutrients? John P. stated that some lily pads are good but too many can choke out other beneficial vegetation.
 - c. Another finding detrimental to the pond's water quality was the presence of gold fish. This can be controlled by stocking large mouth bass.
2. Justin K. asked is one of the municipalities could offer a loading dock for the bulk shipment of milkweed. It was determined later that Pottstown could accommodate the shipment at its Park Workshop in Memorial Park and provide a loader with forks.
3. Mike L. asked the committee to think about ways we could improve communication to better coordinate events so that municipalities aren't competing against each other for attendees.
4. The meeting concluded with updates from the PARRC partners:
 - a. Montgomery County:

- Donna F. asked municipalities that have not yet closed out previous mini-grants do so before September 30.
 - The first half hour of the October PARRC meeting will be a discussion to evaluate Justin K's work thus far. Evaluation forms will be sent in advance of the meeting. Evaluation results will be discussed at the December 3 PARRC meeting.
- b. Lower Pottsgrove Township: Tom T. mentioned that the DCED-CDBG grant for the band shell is underway. Justin K. mentioned that we have not heard back yet regarding the DCED-CDBG the grant for storm water piping at Gerald Richards Park; they may be waiting for band shell grant to be closed out. Tom T. added that the Township also recently adopted an animal control ordinance.
- c. West Pottsgrove Township: Charlie V. mentioned that the Lions club will run a table at Upper Pottsgrove's community day.
- d. North Coventry Township: Jay E. stated that the Coventry Woods Bonfire will be held on November 7.
- e. Douglass Township:
- Pete H. finds the presentations scheduled at the PARRC meetings very useful. Justin K. stated that he will try to schedule a presenter about once a quarter. Municipalities are free to invite anyone attend.
 - A fire ring and flag pole were the most recent projects constructed by eagle scouts. He suggested that all municipalities should take advantage of the eagle scouts who will provide the labor and raise funds for materials.
- f. Upper Pottsgrove:
- Carol Lewis announced that Althouse Arboretum will be holding a 5k run and ribbon cutting on September 26.
 - Community day will be held on October 3. This was the first year it was planned by a committee and they were able to secure many donations.
 - Park committee will be creating a color coding and naming system for township trails.
 - The township plans to pursue Ash management at one of their properties this winter and seek funding for tree replacements in the meantime. She mentioned that DCNR may be looking into a grant program to address Ash management. TreeVitalize could be one source for tree replacements, but Jay E. mentioned that it may be cheaper to buy containerized trees since TreeVitalize trees are larger, bare root and have to be staked. North Coventry previously obtained containerized trees at a good price from Octoraro Native Plant Nursery:
https://www.octoraro.com/availability-pricing-order/?searching=1&Show_All=SHOW+ALL&genus_name=&scientific_name=&common_name=&min_size=&container_size=. Justin K. added that planting smaller trees will allow for much easier excavation in heavily forested areas. He cautioned that deer browsing could be more of an issue for smaller trees and temporary fencing around individual trees should be considered.

******Please note the next PARRC and PMRPC meetings scheduled for October 28 have been moved to the Schuylkill River Heritage Area headquarters at 140 College Drive, Pottstown.***

Remaining 2015 Meeting Schedule (meetings begin at 5:00 pm):

October 28

(140 College Drive, Pottstown)

December 3

(152 East High Street, Pottstown)