

## PTHS Advisory Board Meeting

July 25, 2018 - 5:30 PM

This quarterly meeting of the PTHS Advisory Board took place in the Old Mill House at Central Perkiomen Valley Park located in the Municipality of Perkiomen Township.

PTHS Members Present:

Don Orcutt                      Beth Pilling  
Leigh Altadonna              Herb Miller  
Carl Kelemen

Not Present:

Jim Webb  
Cathy Gauthier

Staff:

David Clifford  
Joe Seltzer

- **CTO** - Meeting called to order at 5:35 PM by Board Chair, Don Orcutt.
- **April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018** - meeting minutes were motioned for approval by Leigh A. and seconded by Beth P.
- **New PTHS Board Member Introduction** – Herb Miller was welcomed by the Board and Herb shared his professional background experiences, local open space and trail advocacies/interests, and why he was excited to join the Board.
- **Region 2 Updates** – Joe Seltzer (R-2 Manager) opened his regional summary update by introducing his background, recapping his 1<sup>st</sup> year as Region Manager, and some updates regarding the Old Mill House. Additional updates of importance included:
  - Green Lane Park staff (events and programming) were preparing for our largest sponsored event = Bird & Wildlife Fest. Additionally, Joe and GLP colleagues were ironing out the specs for their first annual Haunted Hay Ride in October.
  - GLP experienced many electrical upgrades or newly installed electrics over the past year, including electrifying the equestrian campground and overhauling the primary campground comfort station. Multiple analysis are underway regarding permanent restrooms at Area 5 (tennis courts/amphitheater) and upgrading restroom capacity near the park office; restoration of shuttered Concession Stand to hopefully open/rent in 2019; adjust/improve new Walt Road Boat Storage office for ADA access; refresh Stone Pavilion; and start engineering analysis of shuttered Auditorium and reuse study for Family Youth Services building, both located at Hemlock Grove (old religious camp then mobile home site).
  - Pennypacker Mills has experienced notable restorations over the past few years and the site is looking refreshed and experiencing increased attendance. PPM staff has been investing their time and expertise in assisting Alana (Sunrise Curator) with site inventory/collection and future planning/mission of Sunrise.
  - Sunrise {Mill} is experiencing foundation and internal/external masonry restorations and repairs. Window and door reframing work should follow later this year. Joe discussed the possibility of the Timber Framers Guild coming to Sunrise next year to

conduct hands-on workshops that rebuild complex historic framing components or recreates entire segments of the mill.

- **PTHS Advisory Board Tours and Sunrise Mill Board Committee**

*PTHS Tours* - The Board members created a draft schedule for two (2) informal excursions to explore and analyze other County and non-County parks/open space lands/historic sites. Don Orcutt updated the Board with details on the follow-up tour with greater emphasis on the Wetzel Mill and the Highlands proposed trail networks:

- *PHASE II Follow-up Tour w/ Don Orcutt & Company*: Wetzel Mill; Rogers-Hiester House; and the Highlands Area/Trails. Don O. reported that the tour was well received and the information sharing on outside/non-county initiatives is a good practice and has the potential to create networks/partnerships.

*Sunrise Mill Board Committee* – There was continued lively discussion regarding the process in which this committee interacts with the site planning and programming phases to open Sunrise Mill. The Committee developed a short-term access and circulation strategy to get small groups to the site for a variety of reasons during the planning and development phase. Carl K. developed access and parking sketches that helped greatly illustrate the alternative methods to get people into the site. The options appeared semi-reasonable for short-term improvements, however current funding was limited for this aspect of the project. Herb M. indicated there were political and resourceful ways to conduct the proposed improvements at reduced costs. A field meeting would be scheduled to determine our logical next step regarding short-term access improvements. A question was raised about the liability/legality of bringing volunteers, professionals, and interested stakeholders on the site (and surrounding lands) since the site is technically closed to the public. Dave C. would check-in with the County solicitor and determine if a release form is appropriate at this stage. A fall or early winter tour of the site should be scheduled to observe restoration work to date and how to proceed with our next step.

- **Board Open Forum** – Beth P. recommended that the Board craft a letter to the County Commissioners regarding the importance of retaining/promoting Alana B. and the overall significance of the Sunrise Mill site and the current momentum to publicly open the site.

Leigh A. informed the Board of Climate Watch and how GLP, the Unami corridor, and Swamp Creek are (or have the potential to) assisting professionals with unprecedented weather data and the correlating impacts to regional and migrating bird species.

- **Adjournment**: Meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM