

5.0 Estimate of Probable cost

Fischer's Park Master Plan Update					
SC# 09033.10					
Date: 11/16/2009					
Opinion of Probable Development Costs					
<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Unit Cost</u>	<u>Cost</u>	
1.0	<u>ACCESSIBILITY ENHANCEMENTS</u>				
a. Arneth Seating Area and Path					
Trail access to Arneth Entertainment Center (AEC) - Unit pavers	SF	1,545	\$10.00	\$15,450	
ADA seating @ AEC -Asphalt	SF	200	\$10.00	\$2,000	
b. Fishing Area					
Trail connection to fishing area - Unit pavers	SF	450	\$10.00	\$4,500	
ADA fishing area (Surface and railing)	LS	1	\$7,500.00	\$7,500	
c. Creek-Side Bench at Dam					
Trail connect to creek side bench - Unit pavers	SF	450	\$10.00	\$4,500	
Creek side bench on ADA pad - Unit pavers	EA	1	\$2,200.00	\$2,200	
d. Universal Loop - accessibility improvements					
Ex. Trail Regrading / Relocation	LS	1	\$20,000.00	\$20,000	
Benches (8) with ADA access (pad)	EA	8	\$2,200.00	\$17,600	
ADA Picnic Tables (10 - distribute to ex. pavilions)	EA	10	\$1,250.00	\$12,500	
Trail signage	EA	4	\$500.00	\$2,000	
Pedestrian pole light	EA	18	\$2,500.00	\$45,000	
Electric Service	LF	1,650	\$18.00	\$29,700	
			Subtotal	\$162,950	
			10% Contingency	\$16,295	
			10% Design and Engineering Fee	\$16,295	
			Total	\$195,540	
2.0	<u>KRIEBEL ROAD / ARNETH IMPROVEMENTS</u>				
a. Close Kriebel Road					
Gate - 2 for closing of Kriebel Road	EA	2	\$4,800.00	\$9,600	
Road close signage	EA	2	\$500.00	\$1,000	
b. Parking Lot & Turn Around					
Porous Paving - parking lot & access drive (40 Spaces)	SY	1,590	\$40.00	\$63,600	
Parking Space Line Striping	LF	800	\$3.00	\$2,400	
ADA Parking Symbol	EA	2	\$390.00	\$780	
Parking Area Signage	EA	2	\$500.00	\$1,000	
Parking Bumper Blocks	EA	40	\$150.00	\$6,000	
Porous Paving - road improvements / turn around	SY	760	\$40.00	\$30,400	
c. Dog park					
Chain link fencing - 4' tall	LF	800	\$26.00	\$20,800	
Gate	EA	2	\$400.00	\$800	
Baggy distributor	EA	1	\$1,400.00	\$1,400	
Benches	EA	2	\$2,200.00	\$4,400	
Trash receptacles	EA	2	\$1,400.00	\$2,800	
Drinking Fountain (human & dog)	EA	1	\$3,000.00	\$3,000	
Water supply and piping	LF	300	\$10.00	\$3,000	
Wood chips - dog park (4 inches)	CY	550	\$25.00	\$13,750	
Wood chips - trail access from parking lot	CY	15	\$25.00	\$375	
d. Picnic Grove					
Picnic Tables (free standing)	EA	5	\$350.00	\$1,750	
Trees	EA	5	\$400.00	\$2,000	
e. Farm Field Trail					
Stone dust trail 5' wide (2300 LF)	CY	215	\$50.00	\$10,750	
<u>Planting</u>					
Parking Lot Buffer Planting	LS	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000	
Seeding of disturbed areas	SF	3,691	\$0.10	\$369	
<u>Site Work</u>					
Clearing & Grubbing	AC	1	\$5,500.00	\$5,500	
Erosion and Sedimentation Control	LS	1	\$2,000.00	\$2,000	
			Subtotal	\$192,474	
			10% Contingency	\$19,247	
			10% Design and Engineering Fee	\$19,247	
			Total	\$230,969	

Opinion of Probable Development Costs					
	<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Unit Cost</u>	<u>Cost</u>
3.0	<u>WOODLAND SENSORY GARDEN</u>				
	Boardwalk (250 LF at 5' wide)	SF	1,000	\$25.00	\$25,000
	Trail connections - fibar (250 LF at 5' wide)	SF	1,650	\$10.00	\$16,500
	Canopy Trees - 2"-21/2"	EA	10	\$400.00	\$4,000
	Understory/Flowering Trees - 2"-21/2"	EA	15	\$375.00	\$5,625
	Shrubs	SF	1,000	\$3.00	\$3,000
	Remove Invasive Species	LS	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000
	<u>Site Work</u>				
	Demo Boathouse Pavilion	LS	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000
	Clearing & Grubbing	AC	1	\$5,500.00	\$5,500
				Subtotal	\$69,625
				10% Contingency	\$6,963
				10% Design and Engineering Fee	\$6,963
				Total	\$83,550
4.0	<u>RESOURCE RESTORATION</u>				
	a. Riparian Corridor	SF	20,000	\$5.00	\$100,000
	b. Woodland Planting	LS	1	\$10,000.00	\$10,000
	c. Meadow Restoration	LS	1	\$20,000.00	\$20,000
				Subtotal	\$130,000
				10% Contingency	\$13,000
				10% Design and Engineering Fee	\$13,000
				Total	\$156,000
5.0	<u>ENTRY / PLAY PLAZA</u>				
	a. Spray Fountain	LS	1	\$25,000.00	\$25,000
	b. New Restroom				
	New Pavilion / Restroom facility - Cedar Forest	EA	1	\$200,000.00	\$200,000
	Paving - (new pavilion and fountain area - concrete)	SF	5,300	\$8.00	\$42,400
	Benches - 6	EA	6	\$2,200.00	\$13,200
	Game Tables - 4	EA	4	\$1,700.00	\$6,800
	Picnic Tables (6)	EA	6	\$1,250.00	\$7,500
	Trail / walk connection of future parking - concrete	SF	1,375	\$8.00	\$11,000
	New Pavilion Concrete Pad	SF	2,600	\$8.00	\$20,800
	Drinking Fountain	EA	1	\$3,000.00	\$3,000
	c. Play Areas				
	Universal Playground - poured-in-place surface (flex ground)	SF	6,000	\$16.00	\$96,000
	Universal Playground - play structures (2-5 yrs & 5-12 yrs)	EA	2	\$100,000.00	\$200,000
	Swing Set	EA	2	\$10,000.00	\$20,000
	Stripe spaces closest to Stable as ADA	EA	2	\$390.00	\$780
	Canopy Trees - 2"-21/2"	EA	15	\$400.00	\$6,000
	Understory/Flowering Trees - 2"-21/2"	EA	10	\$375.00	\$3,750
	Fence around play area (post and rail with wire)	LF	370	\$30.00	\$11,100
	<u>Site Work</u>				
	Site demo - ex. restroom facility / paving / paly areas	LS	1	\$10,000.00	\$10,000
	Grading	LS	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000
	Retaining wall for playground area	LF	50	\$175.00	\$8,750
	Storm water management areas / drainage improvements	LS	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000
	Electric service - relocate transformers & equip	LS	1	\$7,500.00	\$7,500
	Water service - relocation	LS	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000
	Sewer service - relocation	LS	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000
	Erosion and Sedimentation Control	LS	1	\$2,500.00	\$2,500
				Subtotal	\$716,080
				10% Contingency	\$71,608
				10% Design and Engineering Fee	\$71,608
				Total	\$859,296

Opinion of Probable Development Costs					
	<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Unit Cost</u>	<u>Cost</u>
6.0	<u>EVANSBURG CONNECTOR TRAIL</u>				
	Woodland Trail- wood chips	CY	65	\$25.00	\$1,625
	Wooden Trail bridge	EA	1	\$7,500.00	\$7,500
	Signage	EA	4	\$500.00	\$2,000
	On-road trail striping	LF	1,200	\$5.00	\$6,000
	<u>Site Work</u>				
	Clearing & Grubbing	AC	0.5	\$5,500.00	\$2,750
				Subtotal	\$19,875
				10% Contingency	\$1,988
				10% Design and Engineering Fee	\$1,988
				Total	\$23,850
7.0	<u>GAME PAVILION AREA</u>				
	Bocce Ball Courts (2)	EA	2	\$35,000.00	\$70,000
	Stable Pavilion - new finish floor surface with concrete	SF	3,865	\$8.00	\$30,920
	Stable Pavilion - raise roof height	LS	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000
	Benches (4)	EA	4	\$2,200.00	\$8,800
	Game tables (4)	EA	2	\$1,700.00	\$3,400
	Drinking Fountain	EA	1	\$3,000.00	\$3,000
	Picnic tables (16)	EA	16	\$1,250.00	\$20,000
	Dumpster enclosure	EA	1	\$5,500.00	\$5,500
	<u>Buffer planting along Bustard Road</u>				
	Canopy Trees - 2"-21/2"	EA	10	\$400.00	\$4,000
	Evergreen Trees - 4-5'	EA	25	\$200.00	\$5,000
	Understory/Flowering Trees - 2"-21/2"	EA	10	\$375.00	\$3,750
	Shrubs	SF	500	\$3.00	\$1,500
	<u>Site Work</u>				
	Site demo - Pavilion Floor	SF	3,865	\$3.00	\$11,595
	Demo ex. playground	LS	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000
	Demo ex. Pavilion (Carriage House)	LS	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000
	Grading	LS	1	\$3,500.00	\$3,500
	Storm water management areas / drainage improvements	LS	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000
	Erosion and Sedimentation Control	LS	1	\$2,500.00	\$2,500
				Subtotal	\$193,465
				10% Contingency	\$19,347
				10% Design and Engineering Fee	\$19,347
				Total	\$232,158
8.0	<u>PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE</u>				
	Pedestrian bridge and abutments	LS	1	\$230,000.00	\$230,000
	Trail connection - both side of creek (wood chips)	CY	20	\$25.00	\$500
	<u>Site Work</u>				
	Clear & Grubbing	LS	1	\$10,000.00	\$10,000
	Grading	LS	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000
	Erosion and Sedimentation Control	LS	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000
				Subtotal	\$250,500
				10% Contingency	\$25,050
				10% Design and Engineering Fee	\$25,050
				Total	\$300,600

6.0 Appendix

Meeting Minutes

Newspaper Articles

Opinion Survey

Dam Inspection Report



July 2, 2009

Meeting Notes

Fischer's Park Master Plan Update

Committee Meeting # 1 June 29, 2009

Committee Attendance: David Mosesso, Arlene Smith, Tom Hollenbeck, Mike Bianchini, Nancy Becker, Rich Marino, Mike Mannes, Joe Meehan, Betsi Strasser (Easter Seals), Bill Jernegan (Easter Seals).

Consultants: From Simone Collins: Peter Simone, Oliver Carley, and Rebecca Giordon. From Bursich: Bill Dingman. From Urban Partners: Chris Lankenau.

NOTES

Peter Simone thanked the committee for selecting the Simone Collins (SC) team and briefly introduced the project. The committee members and consultant team members introduced themselves.

Tom Hollenbeck provided a history of how Towamencin has planned for and managed Fischer's Park. Tom explained that since the last park master plan in 1998 a number of changes have been made the most significant of which is the addition of the Arneth Entertainment Center. Tom also explained that the Board has made a commitment to keep the park passive.

Tom introduced Betsi Strasser and Bill Jernegan from Easter Seals who gave a thorough overview of how Easter Seals currently uses the park and its overall park needs.

The following highlights the major discussion points and action items.

1. Tom also explained the current use of the Farmstead buildings on the previous Arneth tract. Two homes exist, one on either side of Kriebel Road. The Arneth Property is rented out by the Township. There is a "life-time lease" on the Hanks Property, but the structure needs significant repairs as does the barn structure.

Action: SC to contact Rob Ford to discuss the future use and lease of the farmstead.

2. The Easter Seals summer camp uses Fischer's park for campers aged 6-21. Camp activities include fishing, races, arts and crafts, walking and similar activities. Up to 40 campers use the park at a time and they are bused in. They use the park for a full day of activities. There is no horticultural program.

Action: SC to contact camp director Bill Barnes to get more details on park use.

3. The Easter Seals School (roughly 160 pupils) uses the park for the preschool and their other classes. Field trips require that a parent attend as no buses are available.

Action: SC to contact Jason Thomas, physical therapist who worked on the play equipment for the Easter Seals school.

4. General comments about the use of the park by Easter Seals and others is as follows:

- An additional handicap bathroom is needed, possibly in another part of the park. The bathroom should include a changing station that is adequate for changing older children.
- Accessible slopes are needed on the park's trails and other surfaces to accommodate wheelchairs.
- Any future park designs should integrate special needs facilities with those for other kids. Betsi and Bill suggested that a special needs park in the Lehigh Valley could serve as a model.
SC will visit the site.
- The park should emphasize inclusion.
- The PA Department of Health offers mini grants that Fischer's may qualify for if it uses inclusionary facilities.

5. Tom reported that the design and cost of a pedestrian bridge had been calculated and that the Township Manager, Rob Ford, would be able to provide that information.

Action: SC to contact Rob Ford regarding pedestrian bridge details.

6. The Committee discussed the park's electrical service and whether it was adequate. It was suggested additional lighting might be needed for safety during special evening events and at the entrance. The park closes at dark.

7. The Connie Mack field is underutilized as the majority of the Township's league sports play at Bustard Park.

8. The park has six picnic pavilions that are in various conditions. The two closest to the parking lot, Becks and the Bull Pen, are in excellent condition with new picnic tables. The Boathouse Pavilion was reported to be under used and is in poor condition. Specific discussion points are as follows:
 - The Boathouse Pavilion needs to be renovated or removed
 - Temporary side covers are needed to protect the newer pavilions from rain and provide an all-weather venue.
 - The Stable Pavilion has an enclosed storage area on one end of it.
 - Mike Bianchini coordinates the rental of the pavilions. He caps the rentals at about 100 people a day. Capacity is not know, but far exceeds 100 people.
 - Many people use the pavilions informally.

Action: SC to research temporary side covers.

9. The park hosts a summer concert series (currently 2 events a summer), two movie nights a summer, and a star gazer evening. The following issues and ideas were discussed:
- Overflow parking is needed during the concert series.
 - The grass area to the south of the current parking area is used for overflow as needed.
 - It was suggested that a second entrance might be needed.
 - Township police are notified when an event is being held. It is their decision whether to send an officer for traffic control.
 - Departures are somewhat staggered during movie nights as family with kids leave early.
 - While there might be increased demand for the concert series, adjacent municipalities have their own shows and Towamencin wants to promote the use of the park for its own residents.
10. The potential adaptive reuse of the Arneht buildings and properties provided several suggestions:
- An additional pavilion and picnic area
 - A community recreation center
 - A dog park
 - A meeting center
 - A farm stand or agricultural center
11. Use of the Arneht Tract raises access and safety concerns. The following were discussed:
- Installing a pedestrian bridge over the creek.
 - Closing off Kriebel Road.
 - Making Kriebel Road one-way.
 - Improving the existing Bustard Road Bridge (this has been a desire of the township for 15 years)
 - Construction and expansion of the Turnpike might direct additional traffic on Bustard Road and stimulate the need for a new bridge.

Action: SC to investigate if the bridge in a the DVRPC TIP

12. Other suggestions for the park include:
- Dog parks
 - A therapy garden
 - A “sensory” garden and other features targeted to users that are visually, physically, or hearing impaired.
 - Game tables that might include chess, checkers, backgammon, etc.
 - Bocce, horseshoe, or similar courts
 - Mike stated that he has not had a demand for volleyball, basketball, and tennis courts
 - Labyrinth
 - A place for tai chi, yoga, “boot camps”, or similar activities
 - Life style stations – Provide exercise stops geared toward seniors
13. The Committee noted that improved signage would be needed to designate trails and activities that target specific groups.

14. The bank of Towamencin Creek and some its tributaries need to be repaired. Tom mentioned that the Township recently reestablished an EAC.

Action: Tom to ask the EAC about their interest in a bank restoration project in Fischer's Park.

15. The Township nursery is used mostly for storage. Mike suggested that Dave Hillman from public works could provide additional information about the use of the nursery.
16. Tom explained that there had been a lot of interest in past years in extending the trail network in Evansburg State Park to Fischer's Park. The committee discussed other recent efforts to expand the Township's trail network and how connections to Fischer's Park could be made. Tom suggested that a partnership with Lower Salford might be possible in a trail funding application.
17. The project schedule will follow the meeting dates listed on the back of the agenda. The next meeting is the first public meeting and is on Monday, July 13.

- **Mon, 6/29** **Committee Meeting # 1** Project kick-off
- **Mon, 7/13** **Public Meeting # 1** – Present existing conditions and solicit ideas / get community feedback.
- **Mon, 9/14** **Committee Meeting # 2** – Review market analysis and site design options
- **Mon, 10/19** **Public Meeting # 2** – Present options for site improvements
- **Mon, 11/9** **Committee Meeting # 3** – Review draft plan
- **Mon, 11/16** **Public Meeting # 3** –Present Draft Plan

2010

- **Mon, 1/11** **Committee Meeting # 4** – Finalize Draft Plan
- **Wed, 2/24** **Public Meeting # 4** – Final Presentation to BOS
- **April** Send Application to DCNR for Phase 1 Development Grant

Revisions / Additions to Committee Notes as of 7/6/2009:

18. Arlene Smith added that it is important to maintain the current natural character of Fischer's Park; to not over design the park with various activities which the residents of Towamencin may not wish, but importantly, would change the character of the park from its award winning natural and serene beauty to a catch all for everyone, most of which may not live in the Township.
19. Dave Mosesso added that from discussion with various park users, the Boathouse Pavilion is frequently used to capacity on the weekends.

Please notify SC within 10 days if these minutes differ from your understanding or important items were omitted. SC will make appropriate revisions; otherwise these minutes will become the basis to proceed.

Respectfully Submitted,

SIMONE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Oliver Carley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Oliver Carley



July 21, 2009

Meeting Notes

Fischer's Park Master Plan Update

Committee Public Meeting # 1 July 13, 2009

SC #:09033.10

Attendance: see attached sign-in sheet

Consultants: From Simone Collins: Peter Simone, Oliver Carley, and Rebecca Giordon.

NOTES

1. Oliver Carley began the meeting with a PowerPoint presentation that gave a brief overview of the park history, previous master plan and a summary of known design issues facing the park. Major issues included:
 - a. Use / Adaptive reuse of the Arneth farmstead
 - b. Continued use of Kriebel Road for through traffic
 - c. Existing Bustard Road Bridge
 - d. Idea of a pedestrian bridge across the creek
 - e. Need for additional parking in the park
 - f. Underutilization of existing baseball field

Comments and suggestions from meeting attendees included the following:

2. How to connect via trail(s) to Evansburg State Park. There was an Evansburg master plan process 3 or 4 years ago.

Action: Contact John Gribosh, manager of Evansburg State Park, for an update as to the progress of the trails plan.

Result: SC Spoke with Gribosh on 7/22/09. An off-road trail is planned on the north side of Towamencin creek that will connect to Kriebel Road.

3. Suggestion to contact State Rep. Matt Bradford at some point in the process.
Action: SC to contact Rep. Bradford.
4. Concern was expressed about speeding on Bustard Road. Would a new bridge make speeding even worse?
5. The existing Arneth field (at back) is leased to a farmer for corn production.

6. A suggestion was made to consider a community center for the park. Plymouth Township was mentioned as a model. How many acres are needed for a community center?
7. It was mentioned that Towamencin has a large percentage of retirees.
8. How will park improvements be funded? DCNR, DCED and other funding sources may be available for park improvements.
9. It was mentioned that the master plan is the first step in a process of determining needed improvements and costs.
10. It was mentioned that the Township has talked to PennDOT, the County and the Turnpike Commission about the need for a new Bustard Road bridge and that the bridge will get very busy when planned turnpike improvements occur.
11. A suggestion was made to get a survey out to the community to solicit suggestions for park improvements. It can be inserted into the Township newsletter for distribution. It can also be placed on the Township web site.

Action: SC to develop survey draft for committee review.

Result: Survey attached. PLEASE PROVIDE COMMENTS TO SC BY AUGUST 3.

12. Traffic calming measure should be considered for roads around park.
13. It was mentioned that the existing trail system is great!
14. Signs are needed for trail distances along trails.
15. Stretching / exercising stations would be a welcome addition.
16. The township wants "ecological" parking (minimal impact).
17. It was mentioned that folks like the park the way it is.
18. Restrooms are thought to be adequate for daily use, but for events additional facilities are needed.
19. Boot camps use the park in the early morning.
20. The native plants nursery is no longer used. Some say they can't imagine the Township using it in this manner again.
21. Idea for creating small parking areas around the perimeter of the park so as to minimize the negative impact of large parking lots.
22. Interpretive displays in the park would be great.
23. A bigger playground would be nice.
24. Adjacent neighbors do not want to see lights.
25. The Easter Seals Organization uses the park frequently with handicapped students. Make improvements that will allow mainstreaming for these park users.
26. Provide safe access to the creek
27. There will be two (2) new sports fields created at the Green Lane Park location.
28. There will be a new soccer field built at Grist Mill Park.

29. Need to make sure that playground are safe – may need fenced-in areas to prevent young children from running into road.
30. Should the existing playground be relocated?
31. The site where the pool was located might be a good location to move the tot lot to. (It was later learned that this site was filled with construction debirs.)
32. The hill next to the existing baseball field is a great sledding hill.
33. Kriebel Road is part of the township trail system.

Please notify SC within 10 days if these minutes differ from your understanding or important items were omitted. SC will make appropriate revisions; otherwise these minutes will become the basis to proceed.

Respectfully Submitted,

SIMONE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



Oliver Carley

Encl Public comments
Sign in sheet

**Public Comments Presented
July 13, 2009 Public Meeting
Fischer's Park Master Plan Update**

<u>GOALS</u>	<u>FACTS</u>	<u>Concepts</u>	<u>Partners</u>
Maintain Park Character	74 Acre Park	Additional Parking	"Friends of" Group
Signature' Park	Passive Recreation	Pedestrian Bridge across Creek	Easter Seals
"Crown Jewel" of Mont. Co.	Arneith Entertainment Center	Connection to Evansburg	DCNR
	85 Paved Parking Spaces	Community Center; all ages	County
	Farmstead Buildings	Replacement of Bustard Rd Bridge (PA DOT)	PA DOT
	1 Residentail Prop. Along Kriebel Rd	TWP Newsletter with survey insert	
		Traffic Controls Along Bustard Rd	
		Closing of Kriebel Rd - Allow Emergency Vehicles	
		Resident Survey - email	
		Concerns of Budget	
		Traffic Controls Along Kriebel Rd	
		Maintian Quality of Twp	
		Passive vs. Active	
		Bocce Ball Court	
		Volleyball	
		"Green" options to parking	
		Expand Trails	
		Trail Signange - distance markers	
		Exercise Markers / Stations	
		Maintian Passive Nature	
		Smaller Meeting Areas	
		Parking Along Kriebel Rd if Closed	
		Bio swales in Parking Lots	
		Overflow Parking	
		Increase Restroom Facilities	
		Sound Controls	
		Native Plant Nursery Re-use	
		Parking @ Nursery Site	
		Smaller Parking Areas Spread Around	
		Interperative Plantings @ Community Center	
		Indoor Basketball courts	
		Conduct Market Survey - feasibility	
		No Genreal Park / Trail Lighting	

**Public Comments Presented
July 13, 2009 Public Meeting
Fischer's Park Master Plan Update**

GOALS

FACTS

Concepts

Partners

**Parking Lot & Lighting From
Arneith Ctr**

Therapy Gardens

ADA trail to creek for fishing

Expand Creek for Fishing

**Re-Use of Steel Bridge - not
recommended**

**Phasing of Poroposed Facilities
in Master Plan**

**Other Potential Twp Parcels for
Active Use Activities - Open
Space Plan**

Re-Use of Connie Mac Field

Balance of Passive & Active Use

Expand ADA uses in park

**Fencing of tot lot and Pavilions
for child safety**

Move Ex. Tot lot

Space for "Pick Up" Games

**Sledding Hill on Connie Mac
Field Area**

Acess for Bike Trails

Meeting Notes on Twp Website

**Towamencin Township – Fischer's Park Master Plan
Public Meeting # 1
July 13, 2009, 7:00PM @ Towamencin Township Building**

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	EMAIL
PERE SIMONE	SC Landscape Architecture		
OLIVER CARLEY	SIMONE COLLINS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	610-889-0348	OCARLEY@SIMONE/COLLINS.COM
REBECCA LUCORDEN	" "	" "	RLUCORDEN@SIMONE/COLLINS.COM
Tom Kollabeck	Tom Trup	215-362-8166	tkollabeck@towamencin.org
DAN Littley	951 Woodland Dr., Lansdale, PA	215-361-7173	dlittley@msn.com
DAVID MASLESSO	1929 Old Forty Ft Rd, Harleysville, PA 19438	215-362-8499	ATLDE@YAHOO.COM
Josie Charnock	207 Federal Court Harleysville PA 19438	215-631-9236	josie@charnock@gmail.com
LEN MARCINEK	1810 BETH LAKE TOWAMENCIN	215-368-9243	lenmarcinek@comcast.net
JOHN RICHARDS KIM KELLEY	2325 KRIBBEL RD HARLEYSVILLE PA	610-584-4285	JOHNKIM@COMCAST.NET
A MUNJERAM	1934 BROOKSIDE CIR	215-855-6079	
Bill Downey	2084 Pleasant Hill Rd	215-368-5895	William.G.Downey@comcast.net
Wendy Davis	1693 Keele Rd, Lansdale	215-855-9341	w.daviss@verizon.net
Michael O'Neill	1485 SUNNYTOWN PK, KULPSVILLE	215-855-9806	MT077@comcast.net
Betsy Strasser	Easter Seals/Sepe 1161 Forty Foot Rd	215-368-7000	bstrasser@easterseals-sepa.org
Nora Schwartz	1926 Burgundy Way Hatfield	215-723-9592	Nas190@hotmail.com
GARY VOLPE	2449 Schlosser Rd Harleysville	610-584-0636	V19438@AOL.COM
Monica Burgik	1680 Heebner Way Lansdale	215-362-7426	mburgik@comcast.net
Jerry Hinkle	899 CARRIAGE WAY	215-362-3474	ghinkle@901.com

SIMONE COLLINS • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
211 OLD LANCASTER ROAD • BERWYN, PENNSYLVANIA 19312 (610) 889-0348

Gerri Hosapes 594 Blackmoke Ct. Harleysville 215-368-0618 GerriCME@AOL.COM



September 28, 2009

Meeting Notes

Fischer's Park Master Plan Update

Committee Meeting # 2

Date: September 14, 2009

SC #:09033.10

Committee Attendance: Arlene Smith, Joe Meehan, Nancy Becker, Tom Hollenbeck, Bill Jernegan, Betsi Strasser, Dave Mosesso, and Mike Bianchini.

Members of the Public: see attached sign-in sheet

Consultants: From Simone Collins: Peter Simone, Oliver Carley, and Rebecca Giordon.

Oliver Carley began the meeting with a PowerPoint presentation that described five groups of elements for the Park. After each group of elements was presented, questions / feedback was given by the meeting attendees. The elements presented are bulleted below followed by a summary of meeting points.

Connectivity Elements

- Develop on-road and off-road trail connection to Evansburg State Park.
 - Install pedestrian bridge over Towamencin Creek
 - Close Kriebel Road to through traffic
 - Install new road between Kriebel Springer Road (***Element not to be in Final Plan***)
 - Replace Bustard Road Bridge
 - Add additional parking
1. How would proposed trails connect to Evansburg State Park and would they be constructed in the floodplain? Trails could either be earthen or asphalt both within or outside of the floodplain. With either type of trail construction it may still be necessary to have a partially on-road trail to connect to Evansburg State Park.
Action: SC will look at road ROW widths to determine if any improved shoulders might be developed as trails.
 2. Joe Meehan pointed out the possible proposed new road from Springer Road to the southern part of Kriebel Road cuts off the farmed field from the rest of the Arneht Tract. Safe pedestrian crossings will need to be addressed if the road ever constructed. The proposed road would be expensive and perhaps not realistic.

3. Multiple concerns were voiced regarding the Bustard Road Bridge including, traffic speeds, and poor sight lines. Suggestions included a flashing caution light and a pedestrian / bike crossing. Bustard Road bridge replacement is a traffic and legislative issue, not a park master plan issue although the master plan will emphasize the need for the proposed road / bridge redesign and reconstruction.
4. An overflow parking lot has been funded and will be constructed in the coming year future. The lot will be located in between the existing parking lot and ball field and will include additional ADA parking spaces, trail connections, and utilize bio-swales and rain gardens to mitigate stormwater. The township recently received funding from the stimulus program to build the parking lot and construction will begin quickly.

The master plan will also include a small parking area off of Metz Road where the township maintains a maintenance entrance.

Action: SC to check the number and location of ADA spaces to ensure that access is maximized.

5. Multiple comments and concerns were voiced about the need for traffic control on Kriebel Road including: adding a striped centerline, providing traffic calming, and moving the intersection at Bustard road to create better sight lines. The plan will recommend closing Kriebel Road to through traffic, which will address traffic concerns.

Natural Area Enhancement Elements

- Move the tree line closer to the trails to reduce the fragmentation of the woodlands and provide more shade to the trails.
 - Enhance / Provide basic habitat requirements:
 - Food plants for invertebrates, birds, roosting / nesting sites / bird boxes, cover vegetation (protection from predators)
 - Plant native plant species – Trees, native warm season grasses/meadow
 - Create educational / information signage
 - Encourage vertical stratification of woodlands – herbaceous ground layer, intermediate shrub layer, understory layer, canopy layer
 - Restore stream & creek banks – riparian corridor restoration
 - Remove invasive species
 - Implement an ecological approach to infrastructure
6. The Committee supported “enclosing” portions of the trail system with plantings to create shade for walkers and better wildlife corridor connections. There are perceived safety concerns when vegetation or trees reduce sight lines, but no criminal activities are known to have occurred at the park.
 7. Tom Hollenbeck explained that the Towamencin Environmental Action Council (EAC) has explored riparian restoration projects, but regulatory and safety concerns need to be addressed.

Action: SC to contact EAC to understand riparian restoration efforts.

Access / Mainstreaming Elements

- Replace existing tot lot with inclusive playground. Playground to include: rubber surface, accessible sand or water table, “soft area,” tether ball, hill with embedded slide, multi-kid structure (fire truck, bus, etc), rock wall, ADA swings, and shade structure.
 - Spray Pool or at-grade fountain.
 - Children’s picnic tables
 - ADA accessible amenities - accessible seating area (in front of Arneith Pavilion), fishing pier, path to the creek’s edge, boardwalks for select woodland trails, designated ADA trail loop, replace quarry fines w/ asphalt
 - Raised planting beds & therapy / sensory gardens
 - Adjustable basketball backboard (***Element not to be in Final Plan***)
 - Additional ADA parking adjacent to the Stable Pavilion
 - Modify entrance of existing restroom to improve wheelchair accessibility
Add family bathroom facility with changing area in different parts of the park
 - Install all-purpose poured rubber surface / ADA softball field (ex. miracle league)
8. A member of the public asked whether Fischer’s Park has a set of principals or a mission statement that drives and/or directs Park planning and development; i.e. (1) Preservation, (2) Universality.... The committee commented that the need for the Park Master Plan update came from the Park and Township growth and that results from the Fischer’s Park survey will be considered in the Master Plan Update.

Action: Suggested mission statement for Fischer’s Park:

“Maintain and enhance the aesthetic, natural and heritage elements of Fischer’s Park through a measured improvement program that includes enhanced accessibility and protection and restoration of natural resources blended with a program of primarily passive recreational activities”.

Active Fitness Elements

- Install exercise / fitness / stretching stations (***Element not to be in Final Plan***)
- Install a training course or dedicated space for “boot camps” (***Element not to be in Final Plan***)
- Install playing courts: basketball, sand volleyball, bocce court (***Element not to be in Final Plan***)

- Provide designated area for scout amenities (kiosks, camp area, etc) (***Element not to be in Final Plan***)
 - Wi-Fi zone
9. Fischer's Park is to be maintained as a passive recreation park. Active recreation facilities, such as tennis / basket courts, fitness courses, etc. are better-suited to other Township Parks. An unstructured open space area should be maintained for "pick-up" games by park users.
 10. The Boathouse Pavilion should be torn down as it is beyond repair.
 11. The committee agreed that lawn volleyball is okay in the park and offered at the discretion of the township recreation department.
 12. Mike Bianchini indicated that boot camps are not happening at the park anymore.
 13. Shade structures for the playground(s) should be included in the park plan.

Revenue Generating Elements

- Restaurant
 - Events center
 - Farmstead
 - Meeting Center
 - Environmental education center
 - B&B
 - Ice cream concession
 - Residential rentals
 - Pavilion rentals
14. Revenue generating comments were discussed and it was stated that the Township is not interested in pursuing a "revenue generating" component to the Park; the costs associated with this would take years before a payback would be seen by the Township. It was also commented that a seasonal concession stand may be considered at the Arneth Farm section of the park for park users, for bikers and walkers.
 15. The Park master plan should include an area that is close to parking and restrooms for seniors to gather.
 16. The committee questioned whether the existing restroom is adequate for the park and whether it should be expanded to include additional stalls and a family restroom.
Action: SC to confirm the location of utilities.
 17. Community supported agriculture was discussed as a possibility for the Arneth tract; land could be leased for vegetable crop production in which the crops would be sold to the community. A meeting attendee suggested that deer would eat the crops. Other ideas were discussed for the Arneth tract such as an area for a labyrinth and a dog park. Both ideas were supported by the committee.

Actions by SC for the Public Meeting # 2 include consolidating the above approved park elements into a concepts plans and initiating the market study with the Easter Seals to further explore park mainstreaming.

Please notify SC within 10 days if these minutes differ from your understanding or important items were omitted. SC will make appropriate revisions; otherwise these minutes will become part of the park master plan record.

Respectfully Submitted,

SIMONE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Oliver Carley", written in a cursive style.

Oliver Carley

Encl Sign in sheet



October 26, 2009

Meeting Notes

Fischer's Park Master Plan Update

Public Meeting # 2

Date: October 19, 2009

SC #:09033.10

Attendance: See attached sign in sheet

Consultants: Simone Collins: Oliver Carley and Rebecca Giordon

Oliver Carley opened the meeting and introduced the Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee and project consultant team of Simone Collins, Bursich Engineers, and Urban Partners. Township Supervisor and Advisory Committee member Dr. Hollenbeck gave brief history of the park and described a selection of historic photos. Oliver C. then gave a PowerPoint presentation (attached) that covered the following agenda items:

- Initial results of the Fisher's Park Users Survey;
- The draft mission statement (below);
"Maintain and enhance the aesthetic, natural and heritage elements of Fischer's Park through a measured improvement program that includes enhanced accessibility, protection and restoration of natural resources blended with a program of primarily passive recreational activities".
- Conceptual alternatives; and
- Proposed design concept.

During the presentation, questions and feedback were given by the meeting attendees. Major topics and questions are summarized as follows:

1. Dr. Hollenbeck asked if the proposed game tables could be located closer to the bocce ball courts and placed under the Stable Pavilion. Rebecca Giordon commented that this possible and should done in coordination with planned improvements including: raising the roof structure, replacing shingles, and resurfacing the pavilion floor surface (asphalt), which is cracked and uneven throughout.
2. A resident attending the meeting expressed concern about the proposed closure of Kriebel Road, as it would require her to take a different and longer route home. This concern was discussed. Although, some residents may be inconvenienced closing Kriebel Road, it is currently unsafe for park users due to poor sight lines, vehicle speeds, and high traffic rates.
3. The replacement of the Bustard Road Bridge was discussed. Meeting attendees were interested whether a design for a new bridge had been developed by PennDOT or others. Oliver C. explained that the replacement of Bustard Road

Bridge will be supported by the master plan, but no specific designs will be recommended. No bridge design currently exists, but the township will need to work with PennDOT on the design when the project gets funded and moved forward. No funding is currently planned.

4. A suggestion was made that the community vegetable garden area near the Metz Road entrance and native plant nursery be included in the plan. The idea was supported. Oliver C. commented that there will have to be considerable community support to warrant a vegetable garden. The land is available, but residents will need to provide organizational support. **Action: SC will investigate adding this option to the Master Plan and if utilities (water) are available.**
5. A concern was brought up about having the tot lot and a play area targeted to older kids within the same playground area. Plan elements will be developed that separate play areas and equipment for the two age groups.
6. An attendee questioned if it were possible to grade the lawn in front of the Arneith Entertainment Center to make it more level and drier. Dr. Hollenbeck commented that the township has considered the idea of creating a berm for people to sit on. Oliver C. stated that a large portion of the area is in the floodplain and that township is limited in the amount of earth disturbance that would be allowed. **Action: SC/Bursich will investigate floodplain restrictions, regarding and proposed drainage for this area.**
7. Two additional comments were made to Oliver C. after the meetings as follows:
 - Betsi Strasser suggested providing a “half” wall around a new or refurbished pavilion to help parents with autistic kids by providing a safe enclosure for their children to play in. The wall should contain / be made of play or texture components and games.
 - Another attendee suggested installing a labyrinth. This idea was suggested at the last committee meeting. The following website was suggested as a source of potential design idea.
<http://www.pathsofpeace.com/photogallery.html>

Please notify SC within 10 days if these minutes differ from your understanding or important items were omitted. SC will make appropriate revisions; otherwise these minutes will become part of the park master plan record.

Respectfully Submitted,

SIMONE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



Oliver Carley

Encl Sign in sheet

Towamencin Township – Fischer's Park Master Plan
Public Meeting # 2
October 19, 2009, 7:00PM, Township Building

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	EMAIL
LINDA LARSEN	5400NE COLLINS	(410) 688-1034	
REBECCA GIBKIN	5400NE COLLINS	1	
MELENE SMITH	1185 ARCHER LAKE, LANDSCAPE	610-659-0557	
JOE MEERMAN	2117 KRIEBEL RD CHRISTIALE	319-855-8654	Joe@chancefor.com
Chuck Wilson	803 Stony Creek Ct. Lansdale	215-362-7943	new30@aol.com
Betsy Hedman	3111 + Kincaid Rd. Lansdale	215-855-9651	betsy@vancell.com
Dorothy Garre	2570 Kincaid Rd. Lansdale	610-384-0118	
Betsy Strosser	Easter Seals of Seaside Rd. Felt Rd	215-368-7000	bstrosser@easterseals.org
William Jernigan	Easter Seals - Seaside Felt Rd	215-368-7000	wjernigan@easterseals.org
THANKS			
Nadine Caporale	2140 Pleasant Hill Rd.		
JOHN MATHIAS	1809 Landis Rd.		
Marilyn Becker	1798 N. CHATELAIN BLVD	215-368-5790	mbecke@easterseals.org
JOHN KING RICHARDS	2325 KRIEBEL RD	610-584-4285	JOHNKING@CCHCAST.NC
MIKE BRANCHINI	7th Township Twp		



November 10, 2009

Meeting Notes

Fischer's Park Master Plan Update

Committee Meeting # 3

Date: November 9, 2009

SC #:09033.10

In attendance: Nancy Becker, Monica Burcik, Bill Jernegan, Joe Meehan, Dave Mosesso, Betsi Strasser, and Mike Bianchini. Peter Simone and Oliver Carley from Simone Collins.

Oliver Carley opened the meeting with a PowerPoint presentation. The agenda in the presentation included a review of the Draft Master Plan, Proposed Improvement Phasing, and Next Steps. He noted that the cost estimate would not be reviewed, as indicated on the agenda emailed to the committee, because some information still needed to be added. Oliver C. also distributed a list of improvements broken out as short-term, med-term, and long-term, as follows.

Short term – 0 to 2 years

1. Accessibility Enhancements
 - a. Arneith Seating Area and Path
 - b. Fishing Pier
 - c. Creek Side Seating Area and Path
 - d. Other Enhanced Access Improvements
2. Close Kriebel Road
 - a. Gates and Closure Signage
 - b. Parking lot
 - c. Water Fountain
 - d. Dog park
3. Woodland Sensory Garden

Mid term – 2 to 5 years

4. Ecological Restoration
 - a. Riparian,
 - b. Woodland
 - c. Meadow restoration
5. Entry / Play Plaza
6. Evansburg Trail Connector
7. Game Pavilion Area

Long Term – 5 to 10 years or more

8. Pedestrian Bridge (ISTEA – Enhancements application)
9. Universal Softball Field
10. Dam improvements
11. Metz Road Parking

1. Monica Burcik suggested that the proposed woodland sensory path should include an education component as the stormwater outflow for the parking lot bioswales are in that area.
2. Peter Simone suggested that the closing of Kriebel Road and the associated improvements, especially the dog park, are critical to making the Arneith section of the park more usable, safe, and active.
3. Peter S. discussed whether the pedestrian bridge must be universally accessible. He noted that facilities on either side of the creek would be ADA accessible and that long ramps and increased costs might be avoided if it was not ADA compliant. The committee thought that it may not necessary to make the bridge ADA accessible.
4. Peter S. stated that the initial cost estimates for the ADA field are very high. He asked whether the outfield could be a different, less expensive, surface than the infield. He suggested stone dust or fibar. The committee agreed that a less expensive solution makes sense. Peter S. stated that Simone Collins would develop costs for different surfaces.
5. Mike Bianchini asked whether any consideration for an area dedicated to a memorial plantings had been considered in the plan. He suggested that upkeep of memorial trees is a maintenance problem as they are difficult to mow around and must be replaced if dead. Oliver C. suggested that the proposed woodland sensory area might be a good location and that trees could be selected for memorials from a predetermined list of species. Betsi Strasser suggested that memorial maintenance fund be created; a "friends of the Fischer's Pak maintenance fund." Engraved pavers or a similar dedication could be provided for contributors. The committee supported this idea.
6. Joe Meehan and others made suggestions for changes to various graphics.

Please notify SC within 10 days if these minutes differ from your understanding or important items were omitted. SC will make appropriate revisions; otherwise these minutes will become part of the park master plan record.

Respectfully Submitted,

SIMONE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



Oliver Carley, AICP, PP
Project Manager



November 17, 2009

Meeting Notes

Fischer's Park Master Plan Update

Public Meeting # 3

Date: November 16, 2009

SC #:09033.10

Attendance: See attached sign in sheet

Consultants: Simone Collins: Oliver Carley and Peter Simone

Joe Meehan gave a brief introduction stating that the meeting will focus on the Draft Fischer's Park Master Plan Update. Oliver Carley gave a PowerPoint presentation that described the park's history, the planning process, and Draft Master Plan. The following summarizes major discussion topics and questions.

1. A meeting participant expressed some concern about traffic impacts associated with closing Kriebel Road. Peter Simone stated that a traffic study had not been conducted for the Master Plan Update and that traffic is a township-wide concern that cannot be addressed within a park master plan.
2. Another participant questioned who would use the proposed pedestrian bridge. Peter S. explained that the bridge would connect the main park to the Arneht tract and park users from both sides would use the bridge.
3. A participant asked whether the proposed woodland boardwalk would be wide enough for users to pass each other. Peter S. explained that ADA standards require a three-foot-wide path and the master plan calls for a five-foot path. He further explained that the boardwalk is not very long and that it would not be a high volume route.
4. Tom Hollenbeck clarified that the service entrance to the Park is off of Fry Road and not Metz Road.
5. Tom H. asked whether the Township Supervisors would have an opportunity to review the draft master plan prior to it being sent to DCNR for review. He also suggested that the township's Environmental Advisory Council be coordinated with for riparian improvements. Peter S. suggested that Simone Collins should prepare a letter on behalf of the Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee stating the Draft Fischer's Park Master has been

prepared and that SC is willing to present the plan to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

Please notify SC within 10 days if these minutes differ from your understanding or important items were omitted. SC will make appropriate revisions; otherwise these minutes will become part of the park master plan record.

Respectfully Submitted,

SIMONE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Oliver Carley", written in a cursive style.

Oliver Carley

Encl Sign in sheet



January 22, 2010

Fischer's Park Master Plan Update

SC # 09033.10

Open Space and Advisory Committee Meeting (revised minutes)

January 11, 2010

Attending:

Rich Marino

Dave Mosesso

Betsi Strasser

Rob Ford

Tom Hollenbeck

Brett MacKay

Nancy Becker

John Gottschall

Joe Meehan, Chair

Peter Simone, Simone Collins

1. Joe Meehan started the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.
2. Joe distributed a letter regarding the master plan from Doug and Judy Jones, 2295 Locust Drive, Lansdale, PA 19446.
3. Planning Commission Members and Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) members were invited to this meeting.
4. Discussion of when should the draft master plan be presented to the BOS for comment? Date that was agreed to is February 24th, 2010. Will require approximately 30 minutes for presentation and Q & A.
5. Discussion about when the master plan / trail plan for Evansburg will be finalized. There is no known completion date.
6. D. Hollenbeck will contact state representative Matt Bradford for assistance with finding out more info about Evansburg S. P.
7. Dave M. suggested that the pedestrian bridge be moved forward in the proposed implementation schedule, connecting the main park area with a new trail looping the perimeter of the large farm field on the Arneth portion of the park tying the Arneth property to the main park, fostering the view of these two properties as one park. (This also supports the closing of Kriebel Road while providing pedestrian access to the Arneth property, the proposed dog park and the main park area.)
8. Dr. Hollenbeck suggested that the new restrooms be moved forward in the implementation schedule.
9. Discussion about the condition of the old barn and whether or not it is prudent to take the barn down due to safety concerns. Discussion that there are barn salvage companies that may be willing to demolish the barn for "free" in

- return for salvage materials. Barn foundation / ruins could be transformed into a garden space.
10. Dr. Hollenbeck suggested adding a picnic grove just to the south of the proposed dog park that would overlook a closed Kriebel Road and creek. All agreed this was a good idea.
 11. Joe Meehan noted that proposed baseball fields should have non-rubberized but accessible surface. It does.
 12. Discussion about the ability of the EAC and other volunteer groups to affect removals of invasive species along the creek. This could be done over time. Approximately 20% of the length of the creek is estimated to need this work.
 13. Dr. Hollenbeck discussed the opportunity for interpretive signage about the mill history. Also, the value of interesting a college or university archeological department to conduct a "dig" at the site.
 14. Discussion about the proposed lighting on the main loop path and accent lighting at the dam. Pluses and minuses of including lighting were discussed. At this point, the committee agreed to leave this concept in the master plan. Simone mentioned that path lighting could be low level bollard lighting. Lighting could be timed to go off at a specific time. Also suggestion that the future pedestrian bridge could be lit, since it will be a unique feature of the park. (Simone to show recent bridge by SC as an "example").
 15. Suggestion for a Fisher's Park Sign (possibly lit) at the south east corner of the park. No objections.
 16. Betsi Straser requested that one of the pavilions include a low wall to partially enclose the space, since this helps with wandering children. An 18 inch tall wall, that could also act as a seatwall would be fine.
 17. Need to include a location for the park dumpster, with enclosure.
 18. Dr. Hollenbeck commented that implementation will depend on grant success and that the proposed park improvements are aimed at meeting needs of township residents.
 19. Betsi suggested adding the master plan mission statement as a "tag line" below the cover title of the master plan. The committee was in agreement with this idea.
 20. Discussion sledding which occurs on the small hill adjacent to the baseball field adjacent to the road. Discussion about other sites for sledding. Conclusion is that sledding is best to continue to happen where it now occurs.
 21. All agreed that proposed phases indicated on the master plan as short-term, mid-term and long-term should be eliminated in favor of listing improvements without proposed time frame. This will allow improvements to proceed in a more organic and less constricted manner and improvements phasing will be able to better respond to grant availability and success.

Please notify SC within 10 days if these revised minutes differ from your understanding or important items were omitted. SC will make appropriate revisions; otherwise these minutes will become part of the park master plan record.

Respectfully Submitted,

SIMONE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



Peter M. Simone, RLA, FASLA
President



February 25, 2010

Fischer's Park Master Plan Update

SC # 09033.10

Public Meeting # 4 – Board of Supervisors

February 24, 2010

Attending

Board of Supervisors

Daniel M. Littley, Jr., Chairman

Thomas M. Hollenbeck, Vice Chairman

H. Charles Wilson, III, Treasurer

James P. Sinz

John V. Gottschall

Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee

Joe Meehan, Chair

Dave Mosesso

Betsi Strasser

Bill Jernegan

Arlene Smith

Township Staff

Rob Ford, Manager

Joe Leis, Director of Community Planning

Consultant

Peter Simone, Simone Collins

Public

Five members of the public were in attendance.

1. Chairman Littley introduced the project, noted DCNR funding, and thanked the Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee for their hard work on the master plan update.
2. Peter Simone gave a brief PowerPoint presentation of the planning process and the pre-final master plan. The meeting then turned to questions, comments and suggestions.
3. Mr. Gottschall had two primary concerns regarding the proposed closing of Kriebel Road. First, he expressed concern for emergency responders navigating through this area of the Township. He asked that the proposal be run by the Township Police, Township Fire Marshall and area Emergency Management officials. Peter Simone commented that the barriers proposed at either side of Kriebel Road could be "knock-down" bollards that could be

- driven over by emergency vehicles in such and event. Access to the residences on Kriebel Road remains unencumbered. Secondly, Mr. Gottschall questioned what would happen to traffic that could not use Kriebel Road. He suggested that a traffic study be done to determine ADT and if the road were to be closed, where traffic would likely go and what affect it would have on other roads. Peter Simone noted that Mr. Gottschall's concerns were important. He also noted that the closing of Kriebel Road could be done on a trial basis at little cost to the Township. There was further discussion about the proposed closing of the road by other members of the board about this topic and the advantages and disadvantages of this plan recommendation.
4. Chairman Littley asked if there could be a handicapped accessible fishing located just below the dam added to the plan. He stated that fishing in this location was better than the ADA fishing area suggested up-stream. Peter Simone said that this could be added.
 5. Chairman Littley confirmed that in the proposed design of the play areas, children were not meant to be segregated based on physical ability. Peter Simone noted that all play facilities must be universally accessible.
 6. Mr. Littley asked if the plan had studied when the park is used most heavily. Peter Simone commented that park use was seen via general observation, and that use conformed to "normal" use times that you might see at any park.
 7. Chairman Littley asked if there was a priority list for recommended improvements. Peter Simone noted that the master plan committee decided against a priority list, so that the Township could respond better to specific grant programs that might target specific park improvements (such as Enhancements funding for the pedestrian bridge). Mr. Littley suggested that the committee reconsider this decision and develop a priority list (not necessarily including every element) since it might help the Township in the future in deciding which improvements were the most important. Members of the committee present did not object to this suggestion. Peter Simone will coordinate this with the committee members via email. For example, Mr. Hollenbeck noted that the proposed new restrooms might be high on the priority list, since the summer concert series and the "turkey-trot" run draws large crowds to the park.
 8. There was general discussion about the need for this plan, even in this economic recession, so that the Township is prepared to move ahead with improvements as funding becomes available.
 9. Master Plan committee member Arlene Smith noted the importance of Fischer's Park in people's daily lives. She emphasized that the park is heavily used during all times of the day and this is a very important part of the community.
 10. A member of the public echoed concerns of Mr. Gottschall about closing Kriebel Road. He suggested that closing the road could be tried on weekends, like is done on Martin Luther King Drive in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park.
 11. Joe Silverman commented on the funding process and how money on the park planning and future improvements could be better spent on other, more urgent matters. Mr. Littley suggested that Joe contact state and federal officials and that grant monies used for the park are specific to that purpose.
 12. Peter Simone commented on the importance of parks like Fischer's Park to the mental and physical well-being of the community.
 13. Mr. Gottschall asked if the proposed park improvements were all "stand-alone" improvements that could be completed on at a time. Peter Simone noted that some were – while there would be construction and cost efficiencies in completing some improvements together.

14. The Board of Supervisors passed a motion to send the pre-final plan on the DCNR for their review with these minutes. Peter Simone noted that the review will probably take 2 months.

Please notify SC within 10 days if these revised minutes differ from your understanding or important items were omitted. SC will make appropriate revisions; otherwise these minutes will become part of the park master plan record.

Respectfully Submitted,

SIMONE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Simone', written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Peter M. Simone, RLA, FASLA
President

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[Online](#)

Traffic dominates Fischer's Park meeting

Published: Tuesday, July 14, 2009

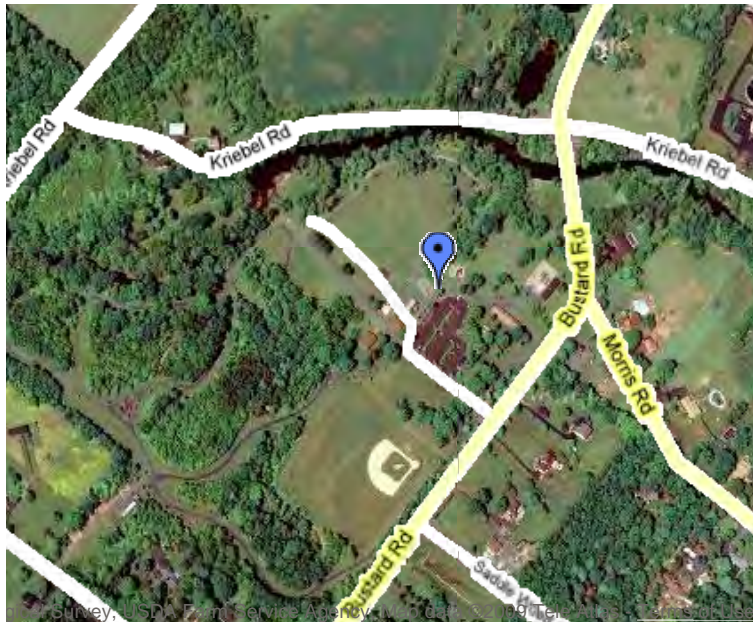
[1 comment\(s\)](#) | [Email to a friend](#) | [Print version](#) | [ShareThis](#) | [RSS Feeds](#)

By Bradley Schlegel

TOWAMENCIN — An urban planner from the Berwyn landscape architecture company updating the Fischer's Park Master Plan jotted down the suggestions while they appeared on a projected spread sheet behind him.

The new suggestions — from approximately 24 residents — included converting the Arneth House into a community center with an indoor basketball court, expanding the walking trails and adding signage and implementing small parking lots throughout the park to maintain its pastoral feel.

Map



View [Fischer's Park](#) in a larger map

"These are all great," said Oliver Carley, from Simone Collins. "This has been a very productive meeting. I'm never sure what the turnout for something like this will be in the middle of summer.

On Monday, Carley laid out his company's initial concept included connecting the park to Evansburg State Park, adding a farm stand, dog park, therapy garden, game tables, courts, a lifestyle station and wireless internet, according to Carley's presentation.

The initial master plan, written in 1998, included the recommendation to create 100 paved and 50 additional parking spaces as well as the construction of play courts, a pedestrian bridge over the Towamencin Creek connecting the Arneith House property to the rest of the park as well as replacing the raised bridge on Bustard Road and the closure of Kriebel Road to through traffic.

Other than the construction an 85-space parking lot near the park's Bustard Road entrance, none of those have been completed.

Traffic on Bustard Road and the danger caused by the bridge — built in 1910 and owned by Montgomery County, according to supervisors Vice Chair Tom Hollenbeck — dominated the conversation.

Any bridge replacement would probably include a realignment at the intersection of Bustard, Kriebel and Morris Roads, according to Hollenbeck.

Don't expect a new bridge near the intersection anytime soon, according to supervisors President Dan Littlely. He said the county, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and PennDOT have no money to spare.

"When I talk to them they all say, 'Don't you realize we're in a bad economy?'" Littlely said.

Finding the money to fund a new bridge remains a priority for the board of supervisors, according to Hollenbeck. However he said im

proving traffic at the intersection would not prevent the township from improving the park, and that any bridge improvements would be completed in phases.

"Replacing the bridge is real important to the development of the park," Hollenbeck said. "The work on both should be coordinated."

Instead of closing Kriebel to non-local traffic, Hollenbeck suggested implementing traffic calming plans.

Peter Simone, the president of Simone Collins, encouraged residents to propose ideas without considering their cost.

"We're not concerned with money right now," he said during the first of four meetings. "They'll be plenty of time for that later."

On Sept. 14, refined design concepts and park improvements will be presented to the public, according to Carley.

Comments

The following are comments from the readers. In no way do they represent the view of thereporteronline.com.

northpennpride wrote on Jul 14, 2009 10:51 AM:

" love this park. They have done great things since the late 90's and this park is only getting better. "

[Report Abuse](#)

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You must be logged in to post a comment.

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*Password:

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(requires cookies)

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Do not use usernames or passwords from your financial accounts!

Note: Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required!

*Create a Member ID:

*Choose a password:

*Re-enter password:

*E-mail Address:

*Year of Birth:

(children under 13 cannot register)

*First Name:

*Last Name:

Company:

Home Phone:

Business Phone:

*Address:

*City:

*State:

*Zip Code:

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FISCHER'S PARK RESIDENT PREFERENCE SURVEY

DEAR RESIDENT: TOWAMENCIN TOWNSHIP IS UPDATING THE FISCHER'S PARK MASTER PLAN TO IDENTIFY IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE PARK. **PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO FILL OUT THIS SURVEY AND PROVIDE YOUR INPUT.**
THANK YOU! MIKE BIANCHINI, RECREATION COORDINATOR

Park User Information

1. Are you a resident of Towamencin Township?

- Yes No

2. How frequently do you use the Fischer's Park?

- Daily A few times a month I have never been to Fischer's Park
 3 times a week 1 time a month Other _____
 1 time a week A few times a year

3. During which season(s) do you use the park (check all that apply)?

- Spring Fall All year
 Summer Winter

4. Which days do you use the park?

- Weekdays Weekends All days

5. What time of day do you use the park (check all that apply)?

- Early morning Mid day Early evening
 Morning Afternoon All times

6. Why do you visit Fischer's Park (list all that apply)?

- Jog / run Get away Picnic Walk the trails
 Fishing Use tot lots Movies / Concerts Use the ball field
 Walk the dog Use pavilions Watch birds Other _____

7. What do you like best about Fischer's Park?

- Trails Pavilions Ball field Scenery
 Play equipment (tot lots) Towamencin Creek Woods / plantings Concerts / movies
 Other _____

8. What do you like least about Fischer's Park? _____

9. How many people are in your household and what are their ages? (Indicate the number in each bracket)?

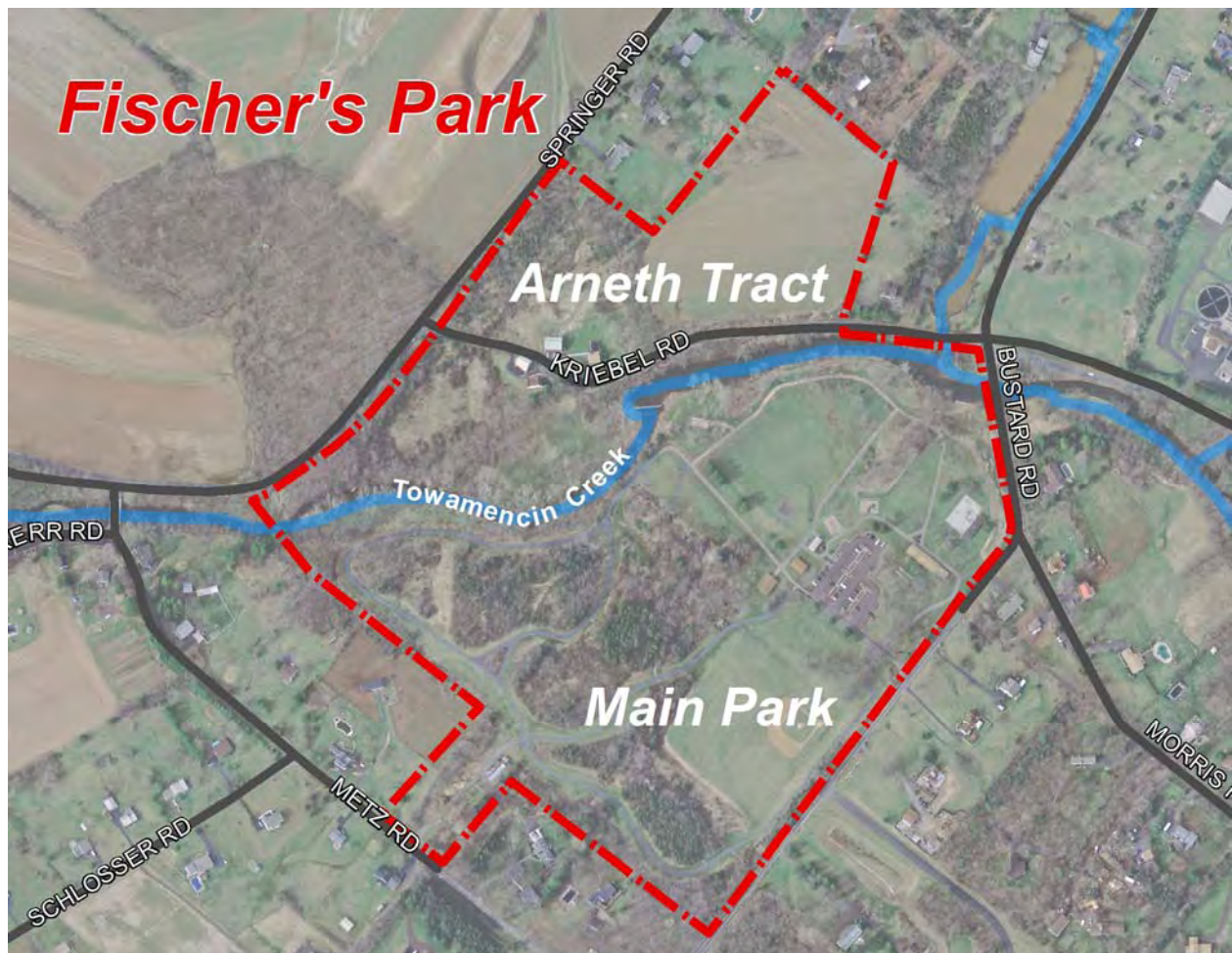
- ____ 0 – 12 years ____ 18 – 24 ____ 46 – 65
____ 12 – 18 ____ 24 – 45 ____ 65

What improvements should be made to Fischer's Park?

10. Recognizing that organized sport leagues / teams are programmed for other Township Parks, and that Fischer's Park is to remain primarily a passive-use park, please check the top three potential improvements you would like to see for Fischer's Park. (Check 3)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional parking | <input type="checkbox"/> Bocce court | <input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced accessibility amenities (for park users with disabilities) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian bridge over Towamencin Creek | <input type="checkbox"/> Interpretive signage | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing pier | <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness stations | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball court | <input type="checkbox"/> Improved tot lots | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sand volleyball court | | |

Please return this survey to:
Mike Bianchini, Recreation Coordinator
Towamencin Township
1090 Troxel Rd, Lansdale, PA 19446



Thank you for your feedback!



October 20, 2008

Russell Benner
Township Engineer
CMX
1555 Bustard Road, Suite 50T
P.O. Box 304
Lansdale, PA 19446-5728

**RE: Recommendations for Restoration
Fischer's Dam
DEP File No.: D46-130
Towamencin, PA
Our Project Number: 08.05292.01**

Dear Mr. Benner:

CMX representatives Moustafa Gouda, P.E., Russell Benner, P.E. and William Mercurio, P.E. visited the Fischer's Dam site on September 25, 2008 to observe conditions of the Dam. Our site visit was performed to inspect the dam and make recommendations to repair the dam breach observed at the right abutment. The dam breach was observed by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), Dams and Waterways Section.

You provided us with:

1. Fischer's Park Dam Improvements drawings, Sheets 1 of 4 through Sheets 4 of 4, dated January 26, 1998;
2. Contract Documents and Specifications dated April 1998;
3. Miscellaneous Correspondence concerning the Dam; and
4. PADEP Letter identifying the breach condition during their dam Inspection on June 24, 2008.

INSPECTION OBSERVATIONS AND CAUSE OF THE BREACH

The dam was observed to be in good condition, except for the area of the dam breach at the right abutment. The area where the breach occurred was not remediated in 1998. The former channel in this area was abandoned. The abandonment appears to have consisted of filling with a thin veneer of concrete based on the rubble currently existing downstream of the breach. The 6" water valve in the breach area is open and functioning.

Large trees are present in the vicinity of the breach. It is likely that the tree roots were the initial cause of the breach. A significant storm over the root weakened area of the dam and through the flow path of the roots likely caused the breach.

Our inspection did not observe any seeps or boils. At the time of DEP's inspection, turbidity was observed near the breach. At the time of our inspection no turbidity was observed. We did observe overgrown vegetative cover in a few areas. We did observe seepage through the face of the dam in several areas. No turbidity (a sign of moving soils) was observed in the flow areas through the face of the dam. Most portions of the dam have massive concrete fill behind the stone facing as shown on the Dam Improvement Drawings.

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JUSTIN CORPORATE CENTER, 200 STATE HIGHWAY NINE | PO BOX 900 | MANALAPAN, NJ 07726-0900
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ARIZONA FLORIDA MARYLAND NEVADA NEW JERSEY NEW YORK PENNSYLVANIA MEXICO

RUN OF THE RIVER DAM

The dam is similar to a run of the river dam. Pennsylvania defines run of the river dam as a manmade structure which:

1. Is regulated or permitted by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) pursuant to the act of November 26, 1978 (P.L. 1375), known as the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act;
2. Is built across a river or stream for the purpose of impounding water where the impoundment at normal flow levels is completely within the banks and all flow passes directly over the entire dam structure within the banks, excluding abutments, to a natural channel downstream; and
3. DEP determines the dam to have hydraulic characteristics such that at certain flows persons entering the area immediately below the dam may be caught in the backwash.

Fischer's Dam is not listed on the Run of the River Dams list of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission. The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission along with the PADEP Dams and Waterways section administers the Run of the River Dam Act (ACT 91 of 1998). CMX believes that the dam is not listed because DEP does not believe that persons could be caught in the backwash.

We make this distinction because the Act of June 18, 1998 (P.L. 702, No. 91), went into effect on January 1, 1999. This law amends the Fish and Boat Code and applies to owners of existing run-of-the-river dams and permittees for the construction or installation of new run-of-the-river dams. It requires them to mark the areas above and below the dams and on the banks immediately adjacent to the dams with signs and buoys to warn the swimming, fishing and boating public of the hazards posed by the dam. Fischer's Dam does not require the signage.

DEP FINDINGS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS AND CMX COMMENTS

1. DEP indicated that: The dam is breached at the right abutment causing the majority of water to flow around the primary spillway. Deteriorated, settled and dilapidated stone/masonry was found at/around the breach and must be repaired.

CMX recommends that the breach be repaired. We do not consider the breached condition to be dangerous because the rubble from the failure helps to buttress the dam. We will suggest repairs in another section of this report.

2. DEP indicated that: The dam was overgrown with vegetative cover in a few areas. The excess vegetation that may hinder inspection or its potentially damaging should be cut or removed. The area below the downstream embankment toe, for a width of ten feet from one end of the dam to the other end, should be cut to allow for the detection of any developing seeps or boils.

CMX agrees with this recommendation. Most of the vegetation is minor and can be easily removed. There are some trees in the breach area which should be removed. This work can be performed at the time the breach is repaired.

3. DEP indicated that: Some areas of depressed/uneven masonry and possibly seepage can also be seen along the face and should be monitored.

CMX observed the depressed/uneven masonry and seepage. These areas should be monitored by visual observation on a quarterly basis. The visual observations shall be recorded in writing and sent to the Township Engineer for review and documentation.

4. DEP indicated that: The source and turbidity of seepage occurring near the breach and possibly occurring in other areas should be verified and the necessary repairs should be made.

CMX did not observe turbidity of seepage at any place along the dam. Visual inspection of turbidity (if present) and seepage should be monitored on a quarterly basis and after major storms. The visual observations shall be recorded in writing and sent to the Township Engineer for review and documentation

5. DEP stated that: the drawdown valve should be operated twice yearly.

CMX agrees that the drawdown valve should be operated twice yearly. The documentation of the operation of the valve shall be recorded in writing and sent to the Township Engineer for review and documentation.

6. DEP indicated that: The trash rack grids (screen) used along the emergency spillway which are cluttered with debris or displaced should be maintained properly.

CMX agrees that the trash rack grids should be maintained properly. The removal of debris and excessive vegetation shall be performed on a quarterly basis. This work effort shall be recorded in writing and sent to the Township Engineer for review and documentation.

The DEP has reminded Towamencin Township of their obligation to “inspect the dam, reservoir and its appurtenances once every three months.” They referenced The Inspection, Maintenance and Operation of Dams in Pennsylvania publication. A copy of this Manual is attached.

SUGGESTED BREACH RESTORATION

CMX has considered two options to repair the breach. Option 1 is to place PADOT R-7 Riprap (15” – 30”). Option 2 is to place grouted PADOT R-7 Riprap. The grouted riprap is better at resisting shear forces.

Both options require removal of trees, brush and wood debris. The concrete from the former channel abandonment shall be broken into 6 inch maximum particle size. The existing concrete wall shall remain intact. The voids shall be filled with PADOT R-3 (3” – 6”) riprap. PADOT R-7 Riprap shall be placed on both sides of the concrete wall to El. 180. This includes the former channel. The former channel shall be filled to El. 180. The riprap on the downstream side shall be sloped 2H:1V.

Grouted riprap consists of a stone bed and slope protection having voids filled with grout or concrete to form a veneer of cementitious bonded aggregate armor. Components of a properly designed and Constructed grouted riprap system include a stable and properly prepared slope, a free draining sub-base or bedding layer and a protection layer consisting of sound, durable stone bonded by a mixture of cementitious materials, water, aggregates and admixtures. Granular filter and sub-base materials, geotextiles, sub-drains, weep-holes, cutoffs, and other special features are also included as needed.

Grout should be distributed over the riprapped surface by use of brooms or spades and worked into the space between stones from top to bottom with suitable spades, trowels, bars or vibrating equipment. The grout shall have a compressive strength of 2,500 psi.

The cost of Option 1, PADOT R-7 Riprap in place including engineering and construction oversight is \$30,000. This does not include applying for a wetlands permit.

The cost of Option 2, grouted PADOT R-7 Riprap in place including engineering and construction oversight is \$35,000. This does not include applying for a wetlands permit.

Although the cost difference is only \$5,000, CMX does not believe this added expense is required. CMX recommends Option 1.

Clearing, brush and tree removal adds about \$5,000 to the rehabilitation costs for either option.

An application for a dam permit is required.

CLOSURE


CMX is pleased to have provided our engineering evaluation and recommendations. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Very truly yours,

CMX



William Mercurio, P.E.
Senior Project Manger



Moustafa A. Gouda, P.E., F. ASCE
Senior Vice President

January 6, 2010

Dear Towamencin Township Supervisors,

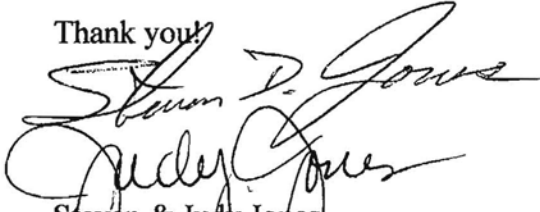
With regret, we cannot be with you in person for your meeting on January 11th as we have a previous engagement that cannot be changed, but at the suggestion of Robert Ford, we are sending our comments to you in writing.

We have thoroughly enjoyed Fischer Park in the fifteen years we have lived in Pennsylvania. We have attended events in the Pavilions for many different occasions. We have enjoyed the park's various trails, and especially the small waterfall – the background to some of our favorite family pictures. We do enjoy the park as often as possible. We are definitely Fischer Park supporters!

However, we are not supporters of the idea to expand the park by closing Kreibel Road. We are counted among many local commuters who use Kreibel Rd often to travel between Bustard and Old Forty Ft Rds. There are no other convenient ways to connect these two roads without adding another two or three miles to the trip to use another connector road. In today's economy and efforts to save fossil fuels, it does not make sense to close this well-traveled road, just to create a 'bark-park'. Fischer Park is large enough to accommodate the four-footed visitors now. Impacting many drivers to accommodate a few dogs running without leashes is not practical, nor preferable.

We urge you to defeat this plan. Please keep Kreibel Rd open! We will be able to continue enjoying Fischer Park, and commute locally efficiently and conveniently as well.

Thank you!



Steven & Judy Jones
2295 Locust Drive
Lansdale, PA 19446
(610) 584-5843

Ideas for Fisher Park

1. Having a couple handicap parking spots on the side where the Stable pavilion is located and connecting a walkway from this area to the main walkway.
 2. Updating the 4-8 year old play lot and making the ground all one surface or making one large playground in between where the two different playgrounds are now (larger number of kids could access this - 2-5 year old section and a 5-12 year old section).
 3. The soft wood chip surface is nice for safety when falling, but could be difficult to walk on and very hard to push a wheelchair/stroller on. The soft wood chips can also affect some people's allergies and can easily be mouthed by kids. I like the look of these chips, but a poured rubber surface would be more accessible.
 4. Smoothing out entry and exit into the playground structures so wheelchairs/strollers can easily be moved on/off the surface.
 5. Smaller picnic table for children (especially by the 4-8 playground) to sit at and picnic tables with cutouts for wheelchairs.
 6. Family rest rooms in different areas of the park with changing tables with easy entrance/exit through the door.
 7. Playground equipment ideas 1) Hill with or without embedded slide. This is great for kids to run/roll/crawl up and down. 2) Fire engine, car, bus, cct. structure where multiple kids can sit on it and use imaginative play 3) permanent sand/water table that can be accessed by a wheelchair user or a child standing and playing. 4) Climbing slides- Kids love to climb slides so now they make them. 5) Water mushroom- this help to keep people cool. They have one at Everybody's playground in Horsham. 6) rock wall to enter playground structure 7) swings that can be used by children and young adults with disabilities.
 8. A couple shaded areas on the grass surface. Possibly a permanent tarp.
 9. Possibly something like a front porch glider or 2 in a shaded area. They use this idea at the park on the corner on 63 and Orvilla rd.
-
1. A few more benches along the main trail in shaded areas. The benches on the trail are great but when I walked the trail most of them were in the direct sun. This could have been the time of day.
 2. Right before the main open area for the dam, off of the main path, there is a small dirt area to get to the stream. I would consider flattening this area / paving it and placing a bench there.
 3. There is presently no access, except from the edges of the trail, to the main grass field to watch performances at the amphitheater.
 4. Handicap accessible picnic tables scattered under the different pavilions and maybe a few small picnic tables for kids.

Brian Styche

From: TMHollenbe@aol.com
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 1:42 PM
To: Peter M. Simone
Cc: Joseph.Meehan@jacobs.com; jmeehan@mbakercorp.com; NBECKER@mail.montcopa.org
Subject: Check out <http://epaper.thereporteronline.com/edition-lan/data/20100205/pages>

http://epaper.thereporteronline.com/edition-lan/data/20100205/pages/20100205.LAN.LAN.1_0.pdf
Peter;

Here is the site of the accident that occurred yesterday at the sharp bend across the street from the Hanks property. We should keep this as a reference in further discussions suggesting why cul de sacing (sp)

this portion of Kreibel Road is a reasonable consideration. In addition to a sharp bend, the road elevation drops off significantly and there is no recognizable shoulder.

Please keep this picture, maybe even for the presentation to the BOS.

Stay warm TMHollenbeck

THE REPORTER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2010

TheReporterOnline.com

75 cents

Suit filed against principal after accident

15-year-old student was injured after he was struck by vehicle driven by educator

By **TONY DI DOMIZIO**
Staff Writer

Pennridge North Middle School Principal Margaret Kantes had no comment Thursday regarding the lawsuit brought against her by the parents of Ricardo Smith who claim she was speeding in an active school zone and hit the 15-year-old in the crosswalk on Fifth Street the morning of Jan. 4.

The family filed the claim in federal court Tuesday, which could seek more than \$300,000 in damages from Kantes.

While the police have not finished their investigation into the accident, Brandon Swartz, the attorney hired by Richard E. Smith and Lizette Gonzalez-Smith, said his firm paid for a private investigation on behalf of his client.

"We are absolutely blaming her for the accident. It remains to be seen what

happens from here," Swartz said. "We believe she was speeding at the time and without a doubt going over 15 mph in a school zone. Police have not concluded she went through the light. Some witnesses say she did, some say she didn't."

Swartz said Kantes could dispute whether the blinkers were on or off, but it would make no difference as she should have been driving 15 mph. He said some witnesses describe Kantes driving in excess of 35 mph, the posted limit outside of the school zone on Fifth Street.

Chief David Mettin of Pennridge Re-

gional Police did not return calls on Thursday seeking comment for this story.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, claims that Kantes was speeding in the school zone and sped through a red light before hitting Smith with her SUV.

According to police, Kantes stopped to render aid to the teen, but drove away from the scene and notified police that she hit the boy nearly an hour later. Police said Kantes did attempt to call 9-1-1, but did not get through. However, another driver had gotten through to 9-

1-1 prior to Kantes' attempts.

If the case goes to jury trial, Swartz is hoping to prove Kantes has a history of putting the pedal to the metal.

Kantes, a Martinsville, N.J. resident, pleaded guilty in October 2000 to speeding in Doylestown, and pleaded guilty in March 2004 to disregarding traffic control devices in Hilltown Township, according to online district court records.

"We will certainly investigate what appears to be a pattern of practice of speeding, but it is heavily disputed if it is admissible in court," Swartz said.

Please see ACCIDENT on A4

Woman rescued from SUV



Geoff Patton/The Reporter

EMERGENCY RESPONDERS from Towamencin Fire Company and the Volunteer Medical Service Corps begin to remove an injured driver of an SUV lodged on an embankment a few feet from Towamencin Creek next to Kriebel Road in Towamencin. According to police, the female driver was northbound on Kriebel when for an unknown reason the vehicle left the roadway and struck trees on the east side of the road. The victim was transported from the scene by ambulance.

Vehicle slides down bank after striking tree Thursday morning

By **BRADLEY SCHLEGEL**
Staff Writer

TOWAMENCIN — A Collegeville woman was taken to Lansdale Hospital after her vehicle hit a tree and slid down an embankment off Kriebel Road on Thursday morning.

Ashlee Everitt, 26, was treated and then released later in the day, according to Tim Dickinson, chief of the Towamencin Town-

ship Police Department.

First responders, including the Towamencin Fire Company, were dispatched to the 2300 block of Kriebel Road, between Bustard and Springer roads, for the incident at 8:32 a.m., according to Fire Chief Dean Miller.

The vehicle was heading east on Kriebel Road when it failed to negotiate a curve, traveled approximately 25 feet off the roadway and hit a tree, according to Dickinson.

Everitt told the authorities she lost control of her vehicle after driving over a patch of ice, according to Dickinson.

But he said police could not locate any ice on Kriebel Road.

An investigation of the accident is pending, Dickinson said.

Firefighters extricated the driver less than 25 minutes after arriving at the scene,

Please see RESCUE on A4

Bracing for a hit

Heavy winter weather on the way

By **DAN SOKIL**
Staff Writer

That groundhog wasn't kidding when he said we still have plenty of winter left.

According to AccuWeather predictions, a heavy snowstorm is coming to the area this afternoon and tomorrow, and could drop as much as a foot of snow by Saturday night.

"It looks like we're fine through Friday morning, and the arrival time will be roughly between 3 and 5 p.m. That'll be when the area should start to see the snow come in," said AccuWeather senior meteorologist Carl Erickson.

The snowstorm is expected to span from the Ohio valley, Illinois and Kentucky as far north as New England, and into the Virginias and down the East Coast from Delaware to New Jersey, and could produce as much snow in places as the area saw in last month's heaviest storm.

"The peak intensity will probably be over Friday night and into Saturday morning, and it could be as much as an inch per hour at times before things start winding down Saturday afternoon," said Erickson.

Total accumulation for this area should be between 8 and 12 inches, he said; farther south, near the Pennsylvania and Maryland border or south New Jersey, could see between 12 and 18 inches.

Please see WEATHER on A4

PennDOT gives tips for winter survival kits

The Reporter

With heavy snows forecast to start this afternoon and last through tomorrow, PennDOT is asking motorists to avoid travel as much as possible.

However, if you do venture out, be sure to pack an emergency survival kit, just in case something unforeseen happens in the winter weather.

"Travel during the storm will be extremely risky and motorists really need to ask themselves if their trip is an absolute necessity or if it can be avoided until after the storm has passed," said Scott Christie, PennDOT deputy secretary for highway administration.

But if you can't avoid travel, a basic survival kit should include nonperishable food, water, at least one blanket, a small shovel, and warm clothes.

If you have special needs for passengers, like baby food, pet supplies or medication, be sure to include those too, and make sure a

Please see TIPS on A4



Geoff Patton/The Reporter

LEGISLATION APPROVED by the state House would prohibit Pennsylvania drivers from texting or making calls from handheld phones.

Legislation would ban drivers from texting, making calls while driving

Keep your hands on the wheel

By **BRADLEY SCHLEGEL**
Staff Writer

Legislation approved by the state House would prohibit Pennsylvania drivers from texting or making calls from handheld phones.

"The message is simple: hang up and drive," said House Speaker Keith McCall, D-122nd District.

Though House Bill 2070 bans

the use of mobile phones, smart phones, personal digital assistants or portable computers by anyone behind the wheel, Joe Bishop — a driving instructor at the North Montco Technical Career Center — said the legislation doesn't go far enough.

Bishop suggested a moratorium on the use of all communication devices, even hands-free phones, for all operators.

"An emotional conversation

can get in the way of a driver's ability to process what is on the road," he said. "It's just another distraction."

AAA Mid-Atlantic echoed Bishop's call to ban the use of all devices while driving. Citing a new study by the Highway Loss Data Institute, the organization said a ban on hand-held cell phones while driving appears to not have the desired effect of reducing vehicle crashes.

"AAA has long continued to urge drivers to avoid anything that would distract them," said spokesperson Ela Voluck. "Paying attention to the road and the conditions around them is only job a driver should have."

The measure should receive broad support in the Senate, according to state Sen. Bob Mensch, R-24th District.

Please see LEGISLATION on A4

Index

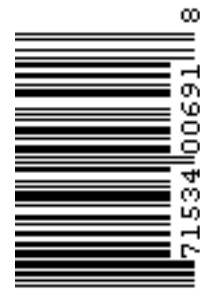
Advice.....B2
 Horoscope.....B2
 Crossword.....D2
 Business.....A6
 Sudoku.....D2
 Sound Off.....A5

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Deaths | A8

Kathleen Dougherty
 Ronald Lauchmen
 Edward Moffitt, 89
 Betty Molin, 88
 Carl Morgan, 91
 Robert Nelson, 85
 Kimberly Russell, 48
 Nelson Schnable Jr., 46