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## MEETING NOTES

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|-----------|---|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Project:  | <b>Towamencin Veterans Memorial Park Master Plan</b>                                | Project No.:       | <b>20003.10</b>           |
| Location: | <b>Towamencin Township Bldg. Meeting Room<br/>1090 Troxel Road<br/>Lansdale, PA</b> | Meeting Date/Time: | <b>09.14.2021<br/>7pm</b> |
| Re:       | <b>Public Meeting #1</b>  | Issue Date:        | <b>09.23.2021</b>         |

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### ATTENDEES:

See Sign-in Sheet

### GENERAL NOTES:

#### INTRODUCTION

1. Peter Simone (PS) started with introductions of the Simone Collins (SC) team; thanks to attendees and began the presentation. (Copy of presentation to be made available on the Township website.)
2. PS briefly reviewed the draft 'Mission Statement'. Ideas welcome; revisions expected over the course of the study.
3. PS explained the 'master plan' process which includes:
  - o Collect site data, site analysis, develop site program, preliminary concepts, draft plan, 60-day review periods, and approved master plan.
  - o Public Process: 4 Study Committee meetings, 4 Public meetings, 1 Board of Supervisors meeting, 10 Key Person Interviews, Online Public Opinion Survey
  - o PS noted that after the completion of the master plan, establishing funding strategies will put the project on-track for construction. Project will likely be constructed in phases.
4. PS briefly reviewed the funding for the master plan study: Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) and Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). Township contribution is staff administration time.

#### PROJECT SITE CONTEXT/ PHOTO REVIEW

1. PS reviewed the site plan, highlighting important site elements in the existing conditions.
  - a. Allentown Road access discussion: sight lines, drainage

- b. Neighbors: North Penn Authority; residential; Shopping Center development/ future plans of developer; potential for discussions on pedestrian access using the 'land bridge' (at-grade connection through wooded area to Park site)
- c. Parking: Where on the site? How much?

## **Q & A / DISCUSSION**

1. PS opened the discussion to the in-person and virtual audience for comments/ questions/ concerns.
2. Committee member Carter LaBrocq noted concern over official name of the Park. Committee and Township officials & staff clarified that the official name of the Park is now 'Veterans Memorial Park'.
3. Clarification of 'Veterans Committee' vs. 'Study Committee'. There is only a 'Veterans Committee'. Michael Lewis is Chair; Joe Meehan is Vice Chair.

## **REVIEW OF CARD TECHNIQUE**

PS led the Committee through an interactive card technique and discussion. Through this process the public identified *Goals, Facts, Concepts, and Partners*, as they relate to the Veterans Memorial Park Master Plan. Below are the responses gathered from the public during this exercise, with discussion items noted. PS presented the following over-arching questions to the Committee to begin the discussion:

1. Who is this Park for? (Veterans? Public?)
2. Why would most people come to the Park? (Reflect; tranquil place; get away; events; education)
3. What do we want them to get out of their visit? (Education; some special item in the Park?)
4. How do we want people to feel? (Peaceful; 'I didn't know that', inspired by service)
5. What will this Park be like in 50 years? Legacy?

## **GOALS:**

(No new goals discussed.)

## **FACTS:**

1. Revolutionary encampments occurred in Towamencin.
2. Other Cemeteries of significance in the local area:
  - Towamencin Mennonite Cemetery where General Nash is buried.
  - Methodist Episcopal (ME) Cemetery behind the Holiday Inn where Jacob Kulp (Kulpville's namesake) is buried.
  - Lower Salford Mennonite Cemetery

## **PARTNERS:**

(No new partners discussed. Partners discussed at first Committee meeting include PSDC (Philadelphia Suburban Development Corp., Lansdale Historical Society, Walton Farm Elementary

School, Master Gardeners/PennState, VFW, a newly formed 'Friends of Towamencin Township Veterans memorial Park', Dock Manor )

## **CONCEPTS:**

1. "Veterans Memorial Park"
2. Gateway/ Grand entrance
3. Space for re-enactments
4. Meadows for required stormwater management
5. Provide shade with a pavilion or pergola
6. Event Space, amphitheater,
7. Draw connections with other cemeteries of interest in the township
8. "Buy a Brick" memorial potential; "Bench" memorial potential
9. Military equipment
10. Flag pole (illuminated)
11. Memorial Benches
12. Walk & bike trail at perimeter and stations
  - a. Add history "stations" along path
  - b. Add workout "stations" along path
13. QR code for interpretive signage
14. Tennis-Lukens Cemetery Tour, QR code
15. "Outdoor room" with plantings
16. Utilities services. WiFi service discussed by the Committee; were informed that it would not be needed as 5G is coming.
17. Parade grounds size: 1-2 Acres?
18. Lawn area
19. Paths
20. Trees Planting, as memorial
21. Security: fencing and/or cameras?
22. Bathrooms
23. All Branches of Service represented
24. Meditation area
25. Monuments- memorialize service
26. Monument- honoring service members of Towamencin
27. Banners: "Hometown Heroes", events
28. Two monuments of living and deceased?
29. Outdoor "museum"
30. Nature-based I play area
31. Low maintenance plantings
32. Area for informal sports
33. Possible precedent to Memorial Park in Lansdale
34. Flourtown/ Springfield monument as a precedent
35. Washington's Crossing Cemetery as a precedent
36. Franconia Community Park as a precedent for dog access

Questions / Comments generated during discussion:

1. *How to generate accurate listing of ALL service members.* PS reminded Committee and audience of previous discussion of the difficulty in accurately identifying ALL applicable service persons. What is criteria for being a Towamencin service member?. Born in Towamencin but has moved? Not born in Towamencin but living here now?
2. *Difference between a 'cemetery' and a 'Veterans Memorial Park'?*
3. *Use of Technology:* Nancy Becker noted knowledge of 'cemetery tours'---suggested using interactive QR code technology at the Tennis-Lukens cemetery. All generally receptive to integrating technology for the interpretive experience. Committee advised that WiFi not necessary as 5G is advancing.
4. *Security & Logistics.* General concern for possible park elements; fencing? A well-used park provides its own security.
5. *Key Person Interviews* SC will be looking to Committee for recommendations on whom to interview for ten (10) key person interviews. PS noted some good candidates: local business, potential funders, symbiotic partners, etc.
6. *Public Outreach:* Anita Nardone (AN) noted that she would be in contact with the Committee with suggestions for increased public participation. Nancy Becker (NB) offered distribution of flyers at polling locations to further connect with citizens of Towamencin. AN to follow up with Nancy.

**NEXT STEPS**

- A Public Opinion Survey will be developed and available in two weeks for posting to Township website.
- **NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> – 7pm -Veterans Committee Meeting #2.** SC to present 'blob' or concept drawings with photographic examples for discussion.

This report represents the Professional's summation of the proceedings and is not a transcript. Unless written notice of any correction or clarification is received by the Professional within ten days of issue, the report shall be considered factually correct and shall become part of the official project record.

Sincerely,  
SIMONE COLLINS, INC.  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



Anita Nardone, PE