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## MEETING NOTES

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Project:	<b>Towamencin Connectivity Study</b>	Project No.:	<b>22041.10</b>
Location:	<b>Towamencin Township Office Building 1090 Troxel Rd Lansdale, PA 19446</b>	Meeting Date/Time:	<b>11.10.2022 7:00 – 8:30 pm</b>
Re:	<b>Public Meeting #1</b>	Issue Date:	<b>11.15.2022</b>

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### ATTENDENCE:

See attached attendance list.

### DELIVERABLES:

- Public Meeting #1 Presentation
- Public Meeting #1 Meeting Notes
- Public Meeting #1 Sign-in Sheets
- Public Meeting #1 Agenda
- Public Meeting #1 Recording

### GENERAL NOTES:

#### **Presentation:**

Peter Simone (PS) provided an introduction and overview of the project scope, and schedule. Emma Haley (EH) presented existing conditions, existing data, and inventory. Bryce Brucker (BB) then presented who we are designing for, the basis for connectivity design, and what is used for connectivity improvements. PS then facilitated the public input process and explained our next steps for the project and public outreach.

#### **Discussion/ Comments/ Questions:**

- One attendee asked if we would look at surrounding municipal trails and was curious if trails would make more people pass through their communities.
  - PS responded that the focus of the study is not to create a regional trail like the Schuylkill River Trail, however we will certainly be looking at connections to regional trails. He continued to say that we will be in contact with members of the community who can provide information on these topics, such as local bike shops.

- In response, A attendee stated that there is a plan for a county trail that has been proposed to which PS responded stating that it doesn't go through Towamencin. He suggested its possible connection with Evansburg State Park.
- One attendee was wondering if sidewalk connections to gyms were being considered in the study. The resident frequents to Planet Fitness gym at Sumneytown Pike and Allentown Road and would like sidewalks provided to it.
  - PS emphasized that they should utilize the Wikimap tool or put a locator dot on the physical map after the presentation.
- One attendee was curious if there was a place to access trail plans the Township is currently planning on implementing.
  - PS responded that they could visit the Towamencin website and access this presentation to see existing township planned trails map. He emphasized that these plans may need to change due to PECO high voltage R.O.W's now being off limits for trail proposals.
- One attendee stated that trails should connect all parks in the Township and the parks should become trailheads to this system.
  - PS agreed and used Fischer Park as an example of a destination that could be connected to the Kriebel Road trail.
- One attendee asked how we prioritize the improvements recommended.
- PS responded and explained that the survey results aren't a polling system, and that prioritization is based on funding opportunities and what becomes the most feasible to implement based on those opportunities. One attendee asked if there was a way to assign weight to safety issues in the report.
  - PS explained that we will consider data that is existing, however, traffic studies are not part of the scope. PS emphasized that we would refer to safety issues with careful language.
- One attendee was concerned that the only way to get to the new Veterans Memorial Park is by car.
  - PS explained that we will consider this in the study.
- One attendee emphasized the importance of working Kriebel Road Trail into plan.
  - PS reiterated this idea and explained that the Kriebel Trail would be a good jumping off point for funding strategies.
- One attendee was curious if we could access data from trackers such as Garmin and Apple.
  - PS explained that we have Strava data, but we will look for more information on other sources.
- One attendee was curious how we can deemphasize the automobile in general. How far do people feel comfortable walking?
  - PS stated that this is an ongoing process that requires dynamic social change. EH referenced the DCNR mapping tool that shows pedestrian access to open space and trails which states that pedestrians are generally comfortable with walking 10 minutes.
- One attendee asked if there were any unused trolley or rail lines that could be used in the township.
  - PS stated that there are not unused lines within the Township boundary, however there are some in Lansdale and Hatfield. He also emphasized the Perkiomen Trail as a case study for this method.

- One attendee suggested linking historical sites with a trail.
  - PS agreed this was an interesting concept. Added that smart phone technology could be used to create themed walks / trails. He also stated the themes in general are effective.
- One attendee asked if funding would be from grants.
  - PS stated that grants are effective for many parts of trail projects. Some improvements such as sidewalks may have to be funded in part by the township.
- One attendee noted that there are sidewalks that have been deferred when the developments were approved. Money has been escrowed by the Township to pay for these sidewalks. These should be inventoried to determine where they exist. The township could go ahead and build these.
  - PS explained that we will ask the township to try and develop an inventory of these deferred walkways.
- One attendee was asked if lighting would be considered where new sidewalks are being proposed for the project.
  - PS responded that many non-commuter trails are often not lighted, however, challenging intersections will certainly be considered for lighting improvements.
- One attendee suggested going after environmental and health grants, potentially through Jefferson or Penn College.
  - PS agreed with this idea and used Pottstown as a case study where Pottstown Hospital awarded a grant to the Borough to help build the current bike trail system.
- One attendee asked if there were any known “desire paths” where pedestrians have created their own route that we could look at.
  - PS explained that the audience are the experts and to let us know where these locations might be. In response, another attendee explained that their son uses the North Penn High School sports fields, and cuts through Forge Gates Apartments to get to Weikel Rd. leading to the community pool.

**Next Steps – Public Meeting #2 on 2/9/2023**

The next steps include making the survey and Wikimap “live”. PS mentioned that we are hoping to get at least 300 responses. SC will begin to compile and analyze data to develop preliminary routes.

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,



Bryce Brucker

SIMONE COLLINS, INC.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE