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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>02.09.2023 7:00 – 8:30 pm</b>
Re:	<b>Public Meeting #2 – Analysis/Concepts</b>	Issue Date:	<b>02.15.2023</b>

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### ATTENDENCE:

See attached sign-in sheet.

### DELIVERABLES:

- Public Meeting #2 Presentation
- Public Meeting #2 Meeting Notes
- Public Meeting #2 Sign-in Sheets
- Public Meeting #2 Agenda
- Public Meeting #2 Recording
- Draft Improvements Plan for Public Comment

### GENERAL NOTES:

#### **Presentation Summary:**

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

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

- An attendee asked what part of Kriebel Road do you plan on closing?
  - PS said above Fischer's Park between Springer Road and Bustard Road.

- An attendee responded saying that pedestrian traffic is light there now, why would you look at closing that road?
  - Pete agreed, and explained pedestrian traffic is light because there are no facilities for pedestrians currently. Pedestrians realize the road is very narrow and unsafe to walk or bike on and try to avoid it; however, if there were facilities, people would be more likely to use the street and use it as a connection to Fischer’s Park.
  - Pete reiterated what Geoff had touched on in the presentation: a lot of communities wave sidewalk requirements; however, Towamencin Township does have a great sidewalk network.
- An attendee added that where Simone Collins (SC) is proposing to close the road would be a good opportunity to increase parking in Fischer’s Park. Right now, it does not make for safe parking because the sight lines are poor at the bend in the road.
    - Pete agreed about having parking in the location off of Springer Road, next to the barn, and then closing off the rest of the Kriebel Road to vehicular traffic. He explained if that part of the Park was enhanced with a parking lot, it might spark more action to improve the barn and deteriorating farmhouse with an adaptive reuse.
- An attendee asked what would the Township need to do to prepare to access funding for these projects?
    - Pete stated the Connectivity Study (what SC is currently working on) is the update you need to access grant money; you need a plan in order to get the grant money. Involve state elected officials. The money is out there.
- An attendee online asked:
 

“Has there been any forward progress on the Evansburg Trail extension into Salford? Is there a timeline on that? Does having the State Park involved make it easier to get grants, etc.? Along the same lines, does crossing township lines help with grants or make planning more difficult?”

    - If we can involve different municipalities, that would be best to get trails through Evansburg State Park. Evansburg has not done much with advancing their trail network; however, they are working with Worcester Township now to get a trail through the park – which has been well received by Evansburg. The planned County Multi-Purpose trail has not progressed, but we can be advocates for it to move forward.
- An attendee mentioned that changing Kriebel Road would be hard because it is a PennDOT road and asked who they should approach to implement improvements on the street?
    - Pete clarified that Kriebel is a Township Road.

- PS explained when SC talked to a School District official, they had mentioned widening Sumneytown Pike. He continued that it might not be realistic because of all the land that would have to be acquired – it would be too expensive. However, the Township could look at other traffic calming devices that could help improve Sumneytown rather than add another lane. For example, a traffic calming device could be as simple and inexpensive as planting trees. We need to work within the constraints that we have now while also looking for usable connections.
- An attendee shared that he is an avid bike rider. He rode his bike to the meeting tonight, and typically rides his bike to the Lansdale train station for work. He would like to see a better bike connection to public transit. He also mentioned that it seems like most people would bike to school if there was a safe route.
  - PS agreed and added that the statement is very true for trails: “if you build it, they will come.” We are looking into those safe routes to public transportation as well as school, as we believe trails would serve a good segment of the population.
- An attendee mentioned that the sidewalks she walks on sometimes has hedges overgrown onto it, which makes it hard to walk without getting hit in the face. She would like to see standards set into place that would require homeowners to set back tree further to their yard to prevent for overgrowth onto the sidewalk.
- An attendee asked how homeowners are convinced to build a sidewalk in their front yard.
  - If there is existing available right of way (ROW), the Township can build a sidewalk. If additional ROW is needed, the Township needs to have the value of the land appraised in case the owner wishes to be compensated for this land or granting of an access easement. This is a negotiated process that is sometimes successful, but sometimes not.
  - The attendee continued his question with: How would the snow be removed, and would the homeowner have to maintain it?
  - Yes, the homeowner would have to maintain the sidewalks along the frontage of their property.
  - The attendee also asked that if a trail is along the front of a property, is a different maintenance arrangement possible?
  - Pete answered that depending on what kind of trail it is, the township might agree to maintain it.
- A planning commission member explained that Towamencin Township has not waived sidewalks for decades. Deferral for sidewalk would have happened long ago.
  - Pete explained that there is no escrow account for funds for deferred sidewalks in the Township. Our recommendations will suggest that funds to into an escrow account that will be used to eventually construct the sidewalk.
- An attendee said that Towamencin has a pedestrian bridge going across Forty Foot Road and asked what can be done to use the bridge more often? Right now, people will park in the Walgreens parking lot and walk their dogs in this area.

- Recent Parks Board recommendations included a dog park be located at either Firehouse Park or at the northern area of Fishers Park (Arneith Tract). Pete then explained that a developer owns the land on the Walgreen's side of the bridge, and the area is proposed for more residential / commercial development. This would create more pedestrian traffic over the bridge. Also, the bridge is a part of the overall Township trail system. As more trails are connected, use across the bridge will also increase.

**Next Steps – Public Meeting #3 on 4/13/2023**

The Draft Plan will be posted to the Township Website. Comments and suggestions are encouraged. SC will continue to refine the Draft Plan and routes including cost estimates. improvements.

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,



Emma Haley  
Project Manger

SIMONE COLLINS, INC.  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE