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W W W . S I M O N E C O L L I N S . C O M

MEETING NOTES

Project: **Comprehensive Plan for Whitpain Township** Project No.: **14083.10**

Location: **Centre Square Fire Company
1298 W. Skippack Pike
Blue Bell, PA 19422** Meeting **3/25/15**
Date/Time: **7:00 pm**

Topic: **Town Hall Meeting #4** Issue Date: **4/7/2015**

ATTENDEES:

See attached Attendance List

BACKGROUND:

Fred Connor, Whitpain Township Supervisor, began the meeting by welcoming those in attendance. Fred then introduced the keynote Speaker, Drew Gilchrist, Regional Advisor, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Mr. Gilchrist discussed some of the findings of the 2014-2019 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the value of community recreation facilities, and recommendations for successful planning of recreational elements within communities. Following Mr. Gilchrist's presentation, the planning consultants discussed basic elements of recreation as it relates to the Whitpain Township Comprehensive Plan and also discussed the existing conditions, challenges, and opportunities of the West Ambler Village. Those in attendance were encouraged to take the online citizen survey. Comments can also be mailed, emailed, or discussed via telephone with the planning consultants, Simone Collins (SC).

NOTES:

Following the presentation by the planning consultants, the meeting was opened up for public questions and comments. The notes below summarize responses and discussion from the meeting attendees.

1. Healthcare facilities may be a good source of funding for recreational facility development. SC will examine this idea as part of the Whitpain Township Comprehensive Plan.
2. Mr. Gilchrist mentioned the Pennsylvania Act 115 of 2013 which states that, in addition to acquiring land and easements, dedicated open space taxes may now be used to develop, improve, design, engineer, and maintain open space acquired with dedicated open space taxes in order to provide open space benefits. (Up to 25% of open space taxes may be used for this purpose.)

3. The survey administered as part of the 2014-2019 PA Outdoor Recreation Plan indicated that on-road bike lanes, natural and wild areas, and dog parks rank #2, #3, and #4 in terms of recreation facilities that are most desired by the public. (The #1 desired facility was rental cabins.)
4. The former firehouse that was constructed in Broad Axe was repurposed because anticipated housing was not constructed. The Centre Square fire company is in need of a new firehouse.
5. Whitpain Township does not have its own sewage treatment facility.
6. There are existing trails within the Crossways Preserve, Briar Hill Preserve, and Camp Woods Preserve; however these are not shown on the community map. The Township should focus on creating a Township-wide trail map to inform the public of where they can go for recreation / trail use.
7. Many of the small trails in Whitpain are private trails developed by Township partners which creates a difficulty in developing a Township wide trails map.
8. One of the access points to Armentrout Preserve was recently repaired. Plastic netting remains preventing horse traffic through the area and also creating difficulties for dogs. Can portions of the netting be removed to allow better access?
9. A detention basin within Armentrout Preserve has recently been retrofitted slow the flow of stormwater through the basin in order to reduce sediment and pollutants that get carried to the nearby streams and provide a better wildlife habitat.
10. Future trails should be multi-use trails to allow for many different activities such as bicycling, and horseback riding. The compatibility of horses and bicycles on trails will need to be considered for future multi-use trails in the Township. The trails should also be ADA accessible to allow use by people of all abilities.
11. There are proposed trails through and around Montgomery County Community College. These trails will link the College to The Whitpain Township building and Wentz Run Park. *Rev. 4/7/15*
12. The Route 202 improvements will include sidewalks and bike lanes across the entire length of the Township. The proposed trails around Montgomery County Community College will connect to these sidewalks and bike lanes to provide pedestrian and bike access to Centre Square Village. *Revised 4/7/15*
13. The proposed trails at the Montgomery County Community College will extend north through the Crossways Preserve and link to Lower Gwynedd Township. These trails will likely be a combination of different surface materials including asphalt, mulch, and boardwalks.
14. It is also anticipated that the College parking lot will serve as a trailhead. The MCCC trail project is expected to start this summer.

15. The Township trail plan also includes a proposed trail from Wentz Run Park to South Township Line Road.
16. There is a dog park proposed at Centre Square Park. The dog park is expected to open in September, 2015 at the time Centre Square Park opens. This park will be the only dog park in the Township.
17. Along with the Route 202 widening, improvements to the road access to Centre Square Park and the dog park will also be made. This will also include storm water management improvements. *Revised 4/7/15*
18. The Route 202 improvement project will include improvements to the access to Centre Square Park for both pedestrians and vehicles from Route 202.
19. There is a stormwater drainage issue at the Ginkgo Drive and Morris Road intersection. It was mentioned that this issue will be solved as part of a storm sewer extension project along Morris Road to Cathcart Road.
20. There are issues with debris at the Jolly Road and Township Line Road intersection that makes it difficult for pedestrians. It was noted this area will be part of a future widening project that will include pedestrian facilities.

The presentation from this meeting will be made available on the Township website. The next Town Hall meeting will be held on October 14th, 2015, 7:00 pm at the Montgomery County Community College, College Hall Room 144/148, 340 Dekalb Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422. The draft Comprehensive Plan will be presented at this meeting. Residents are also invited to take the 26 question online survey available at the following link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WhitpainCompPlan>
or go to <http://www.whitpaintownship.net/>

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 from the Committee 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



Jared Lowman, RLA
Project Manager

Cc: Committee
Sandy Koza, McMahon Associates
Chris Lankenau, Urban Partners