



**SIMONE COLLINS**  
**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**  
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## MEETING NOTES

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Project:	<b>Upper Macungie Comprehensive Recreation, Open Space &amp; Parks Plan</b>	Project No.:	<b>24018.00</b>
Location:	Upper Macungie Township, PA- 8330 Schantz Road, Breinigsville, PA	Meeting Date/ Time:	<b>9/10/2024 6:30</b>
Re:	<b>Committee Meeting #1</b>	Issue Date:	<b>September 16, 2024</b>

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### ATTENDEES:

#### Simone Collins

Peter Simone (PS)

Anita Nardone (AN)

Robert Gladfelter (RG)

Derek Dureka (DD-Virtual)

#### Upper Macungie Steering Committee Members

Abbi Pastorski

Jennine Thomas

Lori Klement

Yvonne Schweighardt

Matthew Bernard

Jim Soltis – UMT Public Works

Scott Faust – UMT Public Works

Mike Sicinski

Peter Grodziak

Karen Fitzpatrick

John Serratore

Thomas Male

Ray Boronyak

#### Township Representatives

Emily Crosby-Piszczek – Recreation Supervisor

Kal Sostarecz – Assistant Township Manager & Director of Community Development

Ryan Griffiths – Recreation Manager

## NOTES:

### A. Introductions

1. Ryan Griffiths started the meeting by thanking the members and introducing Simone Collins Landscape Architecture as the consultants for the Comprehensive Recreations and Open Space Plan (CROSP)
2. Peter Simone (PS), Anita Nardone (AD), and Rob Gladfelter (RG) presented a prepared presentation to discuss the scope of work and process for the plan. PS noted that the committee can contact the consultants and that the contact information is included in the Agenda Sheet provided. PS also stated that Certified Park & Recreational Professional, Derek Dureka, is part of the team and was watching the meeting virtually but will be at the next committee meeting.

### B. Presentation

1. AN spoke of the consultants site visit and provided a brief explanation about the survey and that it was open. RG noted that information gathered from the VZAP will be used and new information relating to the natural resources and preserved spaces is being gathered. PS noted the next steps including attending public events and upcoming meetings. PS then opened the floor to discussion to the committee and AN asked everyone to introduce themselves and comments on the study process or other concerns:
  - a. Jennine Thomas (previous member of VZAP Committee)
    - Noted that she noticed that the needs of the community are the same as when she was a child growing up in the Township and hopes the CROSP will provide more opportunity to address these needs.
    - Janine explained that at a recent event she talked to others in the community about needs and the four main things that came up were:
      - lack of swimming facilities
      - no skate park,
      - no ice rink (Parkland is local club),
      - and safe places to bicycle.
  - b. PS noted that sometimes with facilities like an ice rink, it can be helpful to try to attract a local investor to build and manage privately. PS also explained that some facilities can be changed to accommodate the changing needs of a community such as tennis to pickleball. Janine stated that the lack of bicycle amenities requires her to drive her children everywhere, even if it is close by.

John Serratore

    - Mentioned that fields and field conditions are an issue and noted he was involved with the Lacrosse program in the Township
  - c. Peter Grodziak

- Noted access issues at Lone Park and had concerns about field conditions and maintenance. He spoke of witnessing fields being used for golf and that if left on the field, the golf balls could be a hazard.
  - (In response) PS stated that maintenance is one of the biggest long-term costs for recreation facilities, but also noted that the consultants were impressed by work being done by the Public Works Department. AN explained that Derek Dureka, who is an award-winning Parks & Rec Professional, will be bringing a lot of ideas to the Township including everyday operations such as maintenance.
  - Peter G. stated that there is a lack of seating along the trails and parks
- d. Abbie Pasterski
- Noted her role as mother of large family spanning young-to-older children and the importance of active living opportunities
  - Safety, variety and ---in general---very happy with what UMT has to offer
- e. Lori Klement
- Noted that she was a ‘transplant’ from No. Michigan to UMT
  - Strong supporter of ice hockey and noted lack of available facilities close by to UMT
  - (Committee discussion-In Response)-Discussion of current state of youth ice hockey in the Twp; PS noted potential opportunities for private development of a facility---similar to the West Chester area and others.
- f. Tom Male (previous member of VZAP Committee)
- Stated that he felt there was a need for better hiking and biking trail systems. He noted that more localized park trails were not addressed in the VZAP.
  - (in response) PS noted that the Township has been aggressive in seeking funding to help implement some of the trails from the VZAP, but also that the Township was successful in getting DCNR funding to build the new trail in Grange Park. AN noted that ‘inter-connectivity’ within the Township was primary concern in VZAP; this study can now look at recreational connectivity.
  - Tom also noted what he felt was the importance of open space preservation.
- g. Ray Boronyak.
- Noted that the CROSP should address how to keep up with the changing needs of the community as it grows.
  - Ray is an arborist with PennDOT
- h. Mike Sicinski

- Noted that the Township lacks water access like other Townships and questioned if there were any plans for the quarry.
- (in response) PS noted that the consultant team has experience with this and will be looking for opportunities.
- Mike also noted that the Township is behind when it comes to rails to trails and bike trails in general.
- (In response) PS stated that the area is autocentric, but that the VZAP was done to address these needs and that this plan will address more connections to the open spaces.
- Mike S. mentioned that he felt that the Township has a great park system and noted adding a gaga pit at a park for children should be considered.
- Mike also noted the value of considering community gardens as part of our passive open space recreational amenities.

i. Karen Fitzpatrick

- Kindly noted the 'typo' on the committee's schedule as noted on the agenda: PM1 is October 21<sup>st</sup>---not October 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Karen F. added that increased traffic adds to the danger of cycling on the roads in the Township.
- (In response) PS noted that the committee will have the opportunity to help bring these issues to light and decide what are the priorities for the plan.
- Karen stated that benches and trees could be provided in dedication to someone. PS asked if there was a mechanism in place for this. Ryan G. said that there was. Tom B noted that information like this needs to be easier to find for the community.

j. General Discussion Items:

- Tree cover was noted, and that Grange Park had recently planted some trees. PS explained that this is an important issue, not only for shade, but also for stormwater, beauty, habitat, and air quality.
- Agreement that marketing and knowledge of parks---even to residents-- was important.
- Inter-relationship of healthful (Active) lifestyles with diet; relationship of UMT to local food production

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anita Nardone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anita Nardone, PE  
Project Manager