



MEETING NOTES

Project:	Upper Macungie Township: Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan Study	Project No.:	24018.10
Location:	Upper Macungie Township Municipal Building	Meeting Date/ Time:	10.10.2024 6:30-8:00pm
Re:	Committee Meeting #2	Issue Date:	10.17.2024

ATTENDENCE:

Simone Collins:

Anita Nardone (AN)
Robert Gladfelter (RG)
Leonard Bustos (LB)

Township Representatives:

Emily Crosby-Piszczek – Recreation Supervisor
Ryan Griffiths (RY) – Recreation Manager

Upper Macungie Steering Committee Members:

Matthew Bernard	Abbi Pasterski
Ray Boronyak	John Serratore
Peter Grodziak	Mike Sicinski
Thomas Male	Jorge Romero

DELIVERABLES:

- Committee #2 Meeting Presentation
- Committee #2 Meeting Notes

GENERAL NOTES:

Presentation:

Anita Nardone (AN) and Rob Gladfelter led the presentation and facilitated the agenda which included:

1. Project Schedule
 - AN noted the very fortunate timing that the Township is considering four (4) major planning initiatives within the same time-frame: VZAP (Vision Zero Action Plan/ Connectivity Study + the UMT Official Map + Re-Write of Zoning Ordinances + CROSP.
 - All of these documents are critically related. Recommendations from the studies can be codified in the official Map and new ordinances
2. Development of CROSP *Vision Statement*
 - Committee has been asked to review the draft Vision Statement for the CROSP effort and offer edits at the next meeting
3. UMT Demographics: History & Projections
 - Additional population of between 6,000 and 18,000 could be expected in Upper Macungie by 2050.
NOTE: Slide 13 has been revised since the meeting to show how the Census data and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission projections vary. Preliminary Analysis Concepts
4. Planning 'Primer':
 - Conservation
 - Open Space
 - Stewardship
 - Official Map
 - Agricultural Land Preservation
 - AN noted that the definitions discussed provide a common understanding for the committee on the very important elements of conservation to be considered within this Plan.
5. Public Survey Results Update
 - AN reported that (at the time of the CM2), there were 530 responses!
 - Updates on Q4 (how often do you use parks?); Q7 (why do you visit parks?) and Q26 (what should the top 3 priorities of UMT be?)
 - Top 4 responses to Q26: trail/pathway system for walkable/bikeable community; preservation of open space; enhancing existing park amenities; preservation of agricultural land.
6. Key Person Interviews (KPIs) & Focus Groups
 - A listing of the ten (10) selected KPIS was shown; work underway on confirming interest in the Focus Group areas of recreational programming, park facilities and Open Space/agricultural preservation.
7. Brainstorming / Discussion
8. Next Steps

Brainstorming/ Discussion

1. Transportation/ Access/ Trail Extensions

- *Elements of accessibility to the parks as well how trails can be extended for more meaningful exercise/ trail experiences. AN noted that connections from neighborhoods to parks was a primary focus of the VZAP. M. Sicinski encouraged the committee to spend time viewing the VZAP plan on the Township website.*
- a. Comment: Cycling track at Rodale becomes 'boring'. Prefers driving to a location with an extended trail experience
 - b. Comment: We should prioritize more multimodal trails. (AN Note: *In reviewing the VZAP Plan, please note the location of 'multimodal trails' and 'side paths' proposed--which both represent multipurpose uses.*)
 - c. Comment: Current connections throughout the Township feel unsafe.
- 2. Partnership Potential**
- *AN and RG emphasized that park locations can represent opportunities to improve not only recreational opportunities---but ecological opportunities. Positioning grant applications with multi-purpose objectives and partnering with adjacent municipalities significantly improves the ranking of applications for funds.*
- a. Comment: Suggestion to partner with South Whitehall for connections to the Hassen Creek Trail.
- 3. Cycling**
- *Discussion of transportation issues above (1.) led to discussion of cycling in general in UMT.*
- a. Comment: Varying concerns about travel by bike---most notably safety related to high-traffic areas in UMT; visibility and the need for biker and driver education.
 - b. Comment: Jorge Romero (committee member) introduced himself as the executive director of the Rodale Cycling Center. He updated the committee on how Rodale is trying to integrate biking programs into UMT after an effort to listen to interest/concerns the community had. They are incorporating elements of the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (e.g. learning to bike)
- 4. Environmental Issues**
- *RG provided some highlights of the analysis of the environmental conditions in Upper Macungie including hydrology and groundwater. There are many 'headwaters' in UMT---defined as the starting point of creeks and streams. Careful consideration of drainage areas and riparian (land immediately abutting water surfaces) corridors is critical for downstream 'health' of these systems. UMT groundwater---known for its quality. Must be protected.*
- a. Comment: Is the natural water supply able to be 'used' in parks for residents? Could there be an educational opportunity for water supply protection?
 - b. Comment: Background given on wastewater treatment in UMT: highlighted a potential re-use of 'gray water' (non-potable partially treated water) for irrigation in Grange Park.
- 5. Open Space Preservation**
- *The discussion of conservation practices and methods to achieve preservations continued.*
- a. Comment: How can we really preserve the areas that we want here in UMT? How can we obtain areas that we desire?

- b. SC Response: AN and RG reiterated the importance of the Official Map. Part of this study will be to evaluate 'which' open spaces make the most sense for the Township to consider for a possible acquisition---should they become available. Property owners have the right to develop properties according to local zoning and ordinances. Therefore, it is critical to re-examine the ordinances and make recommendations on how we can improve open space requirements.
- c. Comments: General discussion of the committee on the quality of life benefits of open spaces: health-ful living; retreats from traffic/noise, etc. and their importance in UMT.

Next Steps:

- Attendance at Nat'l Night Out to promote the study and survey
- Public Meeting #1 on October 22nd
- Scheduling and conducting KPIs
- Next Committee Meeting: CM#3- November 12th – 6:30pm

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
Project Manager



UPPER
MACUNGIE
TOWNSHIP

Please Sign In

Committee Meeting #2 - October 10, 2024

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