

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

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Project:	Upper Macungie Township: Comprehensive Recreation, Open Space & Parks Plan Study	Project No.:	SC# 24018.00
Location:	Upper Macungie Township Municipal Building	Meeting Date/ Time:	October 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2024 (7:00 PM – 9:00 PM)
Re:	Public Meeting #1	Issue Date:	October 29, 2024

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### ATTENDEES:

(See attached attendance list.)

#### Simone Collins:

Peter Simone (PS)  
Anita Nardone (AN)  
Robert Gladfelter (RG)  
Leonard Bustos (LB)

#### Certified Park & Recreation Professional

Derek Dureka (DD)

#### Township Representatives:

Emily Crosby-Piszczek – Recreation Supervisor  
Ryan Griffiths – Recreation Manager

### DELIVERABLES:

- Public Meeting #1 Presentation
- Public Meeting #1 Notes

### GENERAL NOTES:

#### Presentation:

Peter Simone (PS), Anita Nardone (AN), and Rob Gladfelter (RG) led the presentation and facilitated the agenda which included:

1. Team and Project Introductions
  - a. PS introduced the consultant team, the Steering Committee and explained the public participation component of 'key person interviews' (KPIs) and focus groups.
  - b. Significant effort put forth by UMT staff to identify and include the many institutions and groups that make up UMT
  
2. UMT Demographics
  - a. PS shared, according to Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC), UMT is projected to grow to 18,000 more residents between 2020 and 2050 (67% growth).
    - i. An additional 14,000 new jobs are projected to be open between 2020 and 2050 (second to Bethlehem).
  - b. American Community Survey (ACS) projects UMT at a lower growth, approximately at 6,000 new residents by 2040.
  - c. The UMT CROSP will be conservative in its recommendations---using the higher population projections.
  
3. Preliminary Analysis Concepts
  - a. RG shared SC work on analysis with the following maps/graphics:
    - i. UMT Parks
    - ii. UMT Owned Open Space & Agriculture Conservation
      1. RG noted that there are 'preserved farmlands' can be permanent or temporary. Permanently preserved farmlands are restricted to agriculture only. Temporary protections can vary.
      2. RG notes that the consultant team are looking into which spaces are permanent and which are temporary.
    - iii. Zoning
    - iv. Karst Geology
    - v. Topography & Hydrology
  
4. Planning '*Primer*'
  - a. AN discussed the inter-relationship of the major planning efforts that UMT has undertaken in the past couple years (UMT Comprehensive Plan-2019, Vision Zero Action Plan/ Connectivity Study-2023) and those currently underway (Official Map development; Zoning ordinance updates). AN led the group through some basic definitions important to the development of the CROSP:
    - i. Conservation
    - ii. Open Space
    - iii. Stewardship
    - iv. Official Map

- v. Agricultural Land Preservation
- 5. Public Survey Results Update
  - a. AN shared that the [Survey](#) has up to 747 respondents (at the time of this meeting). Survey analysis items of note;
    - i. *How often do people in your household visit parks in UMT?* 40%-Several days per week.
    - ii. *Top four park usage categories?* Walking/jogging/hiking; playgrounds; enjoy nature/outdoors; exercise
    - iii. *What should UMT priorities be?* 60%-Development of UMT trail/pathway/sidewalk system for more walkable/bikeable community.

## 6. Brainstorming: Goals, Concepts, Facts & Partners

SC led the group through an open discussion. Discussion items were placed in the following headings:

### 1. Goals

- a. Enabling safer roadways for biking routes
  - i. Inherited by UMT's [Vision Zero Action Plan](#) (VZAP).
- b. Planning with action
  - i. Residents expressed their concerns about planned projects not pulling through. Due to this concern, It was suggested by participants that the consultants should be doing more than saying what they will do.
- c. Achieving the correct amount of open space for UMT
  - i. RG stated that 20% of UMT land cover is a combination of parks, agriculture, and open space.
  - ii. RG explained that the CRTOSP will 'benchmark' UMT: the process of comparing existing facilities/programs to other similarly sized and located areas.
- d. Factor-into the CROSP the effects of light pollution
  - i. PS suggested we implement a 'Dark Skies' initiative within UMT.
- e. Determining where future residential facilities will go with existing developments
  - i. A participant noted that as more home developments come in, more park spaces will need to be acquired
  - ii. How can we decide how the growth of developments will progress over time?
- f. Potential connections from Hassen Creek to other greenways?
  - i. Participant expresses a need for areas of 'sanctuary' – quiet areas, nature, shaded areas, etc.
- g. Permanently preserve UMT properties
  - i. Participant expresses their concerns about park locations being sold and would no longer be labeled as a park. (i.e. Church St. park)

- ii. PS states that, depending on how the land was purchased, it may have been only for open space, which would be restricted from being used as anything else
- h. Identifying alternative funding sources
- i. Maintaining sense of community
- j. Trail connections---enabling longer rides and connections to areas west of UMT
  - i. Investigate potential rail trails, like Saucon Rail Trail
  - ii. How do we make trails safe for kids?

## 2. Concepts

- a. Assisting private property owners with naturalization – educational aspect
  - i. This explains the need for ‘stewardship’
  - ii. PS shares that DD recently instituted a program in Upper Dublin that has a ‘natural resource manager’ since natural lands require tremendous amounts of maintenance.
- b. Provide connections between key destinations
  - i. Walkable and bikeable routes.
  - ii. Safe accessibility to and from schools.
  - iii. Tie communities together
- c. Educational / interpretive signage that celebrates the history around UMT
  - i. Participants shared their curiosity in the history behind the quarry and other areas of UMT
- d. Opportunities to implement rail trails in UMT
  - i. Can serve as key connectors for bikers, runners, walkers, etc.
- e. Multiuse trails
  - i. 8-10’ trail width is the minimum. However, participants and the consultant team discussed that a 10-16’ trail width is more ideal for safety reasons
- f. Traffic Calming tools could be implemented
- g. Future plans for quarries
  - i. PS shared that Simone Collins will evaluate quarry use in this CROSP. (Previous SC experience in Mercer County, NJ on adaptive reuse of a quarry.)

## 3. Facts

- a. There are a lot of commuters ---both out of and into UMT
- b. Residential developments along edge of UMT are affecting traffic flow
  - i. Central area of UMT becomes congested with (truck) traffic.
- c. VZAP is already being used in the evaluation of new developments by the UMT Planning Commission.
- d. Littering / trash along roadways

- i. Participant expressed their concerns about this issue and should be addressed. Overgrown vegetation is hiding trash.
  - ii. DD shared insights of the volunteer group, *Upper Dublin (UD) Cares*, which does a litter patrol once per month, alongside vegetation management.
- e. Parkland School District is rapidly growing
  - i. Important issue will be the siting of the needed new middle school within UMT.

4. **Partners** (who can assist UMT with the recommendations made by this report?)

- a. Neighboring communities
- b. Naturalization experts
- c. Trail maintenance groups
- d. Residential groups

**Next Steps:**

- Committee Meeting #3 – November 12, 2024 (6:30 PM – 8:30 PM)
- Scheduling and conducting KPIs
- Public Meeting #2 – January 21, 2025 (7:00 PM)

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

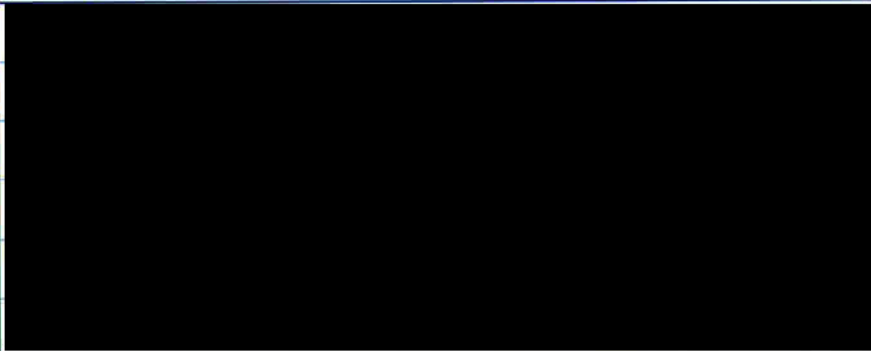


UPPER  
MACUNGIE  
TOWNSHIP

# Please Sign In

Public Meeting #1 - October 21, 2024

Name	Email
Jeff Fleischaker	[REDACTED]
Lisa Shellhammer	[REDACTED]
Ray Boronyak	[REDACTED]
Yesim Erke-Magent	[REDACTED]
John Fitzpatrick	[REDACTED]
CANDACE ACCIARDO	[REDACTED]
FRED PATTON	[REDACTED]

Name	Email
Paul Kelly	
Mike Siciński	
Jay Varrate	
Kari Witupski	

### 1. Summary

Meeting title	Upper Macungie CROSP: Public Meeting #1
Attended participants	4
Start time	10/21/24, 6:38:16 PM
End time	10/21/24, 8:42:17 PM
Meeting duration	2h 4m
Average attendance time	1h 26m 8s

### 2. Participants

Name	First Join	Last Leave	In-Meeting Durati
Leonard Bustos	10/21/24, 6:38:19 PM	10/21/24, 8:42:17 PM	2h 3m 57s
justin lalomio	10/21/24, 7:05:44 PM	10/21/24, 8:42:01 PM	1h 36m 16s
Gwen McCurdy (Unverified)	10/21/24, 7:46:11 PM	10/21/24, 8:41:43 PM	55m 32s

### 3. In-Meeting Activities

Name	Join Time	Leave Time	Duration
Leonard Bustos	10/21/24, 6:38:19 PM	10/21/24, 8:42:17 PM	2h 3m 57s
justin lalomio	10/21/24, 7:05:44 PM	10/21/24, 8:42:01 PM	1h 36m 16s
Gwen McCurdy (Unverified)	10/21/24, 7:46:11 PM	10/21/24, 8:41:43 PM	55m 32s