



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:	11.12.2024 6:30-8:00pm
Re:	Committee Meeting #3	Issue Date:	11.18.2024

ATTENDENCE:

Simone Collins:

Anita Nardone (AN)

Robert Gladfelter (RG)

Township Representatives:

Emily Crosby-Piszczek – Recreation Supervisor

Upper Macungie Steering Committee Members:

Matthew Bernard

Jennine Thomas

Ray Boronyak

John Serratore

Peter Grodziak

Mike Sicinski

Jim Petrunak

Yvonne Schweighard

DELIVERABLES:

- Committee #3 Meeting Presentation
- Committee #3 Meeting Notes
- 241111 – Summary of Public Opinion Survey
- Evaluation of Open Space - Worksheet

GENERAL NOTES:

A. Thank You!

AN reported to the Committee the correspondence received from committee member Mike Sicinski only the previously-mentioned idea on turf management issues at Grange Park---exploring the possibility of grey-water usage from the Authority treatment plant approximately one mile away for irrigation at Grange. Mike noted that the effort was preliminary; AN noted that the information was forwarded to the UMT Public Works department—and illustrated the importance of the creative input from committee members on specific challenges.

B. Presentation:

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

1. Project Schedule
 - AN reviewed the project schedule; noting that the CM4 in January will be discussing 'Initial Concepts'.
 - Toward that milestone, AN noted that completing the KPIs and the Focus Group meetings before the Christmas holidays was important. (Estimating we are 3 weeks behind where the original schedule for KPIs/ Focus Groups shows them.
2. Development of CROSP *Vision Statement- Suggestions?*
 - AN noted that the Vision Statement is for the CROSP effort. A Mission Statement for the P&R Department will be generated as a result of the analysis and recommendations at the end of the study.
 - Committee members offered the following edits/comments on the SC-generated Vision Statement for the CROSP study:
 - i. Include element that recommendatios should be cost-responsible
 - ii. "Economic hub"---? Why did we lead with this statement? May connote that the CROSP effort is economically-driven---rather than as CROS central. Move this element.
 - iii. Note that this CROSP effort is being undertaken during a time of growth; noting the importance of preservation while we are experiencing the growth.
 - iv. Include 'generational' element; acknowledging all generations current today and future generations.
 - v. JT: Add note about 'nostalgia' ---long-time residents remember!
3. Public Opinion Survey: Update
 - AN reviewed the current total of response: 980; showing the increase from each committee meeting.
 - Influence of SPYA advertisement on responses
 - Reiterated that the survey provides data for the entire CROSP effort---note a 'vote'.

- Q26 Priorities: 1. Connectivity infrastructure-walkable/bikeable community 2. Preservation/protection of open spaces 3. Add to/enhance amenities at existing parks.
4. KPI Update
- AN provided a summary of the completed KPIS
 - South Parkland Youth Association: Need more fields.
 - Parkland School District: Orefield Middle School improvements vs. new middle school in Upper Macungie
 - Lehigh County P&R Department: Demonstration project for a completed bike loop (part of the VZAP)?
 - SC+ UMT Recreation/ Public Works Staff-Interview
 - AN aiming to complete focus and KPIs before Christmas holiday.
5. VZAP/ Connectivity Study: Parks & Open Space Review
- AN provided the committee with a 'look' at the VZAP in relation to the parks and open spaces of UMT---separating the township into quadrants.
6. Open Space Analysis
- RG reviewed the completed existing open space analysis map developed for the Township

Existing Open Space Data		
Open Space	Acres	% of Twp Land
Upper Macungie Twp Total Area	16806.4	
Township Owned	925.5	5.5%
Lehigh County Owned	103.2	0.6%
Conservancy Land	0	0.0%
Agriculture Easements (Twp Not Included)	934.3	5.6%
HOA Open Space/Recreation	228.2	1.4%
Total Permanent Open Space	2191.2	13.0%
Private Recreation	71	0.4%
Agriculture Security	1062.5	6.3%
Total Temporary Open Space	1133.5	6.7%

does not include schools, churches, and cemeteries

Township Open Space		
	Acres	% of Twp Land
Upper Macungie Twp Total Open Space	925.5	
Parks	406.1	43.9%
Twp Owned Agriculture	116.7	12.6%
Vacant	348.8	37.7%
Stormwater / BMPs	53.9	5.8%

Note: Church Park has not been added since it has not been confirmed for dedication and size

- RG re-reviewed the concepts of permanent preservation vs. agricultural security areas and Act 515 and 319 properties (which do not guarantee long-term preservation)
 - SC will review questions on certain parcels at the upcoming KPI with UMT Planning staff and KCE consultants.
 - RG reviewed the SC-developed '2024 Preservation Criteria' Worksheet---a method for evaluating which open space may be suitable for consideration of acquisition, preservation or future park sites.
7. Evaluating Open Space: An Example
- RG led the committee through the exercise of 'how' the Preservation Criteria could be used to evaluate the Boy Scout parcel in the north-eastern section of the Township.

Discussion Items

1. Uline Trail

- JS reminded the group of the Uline trail; how if a safe crossing and connection could be made to Uline---there could be a 4.3 mile walking/biking loop! JS noted that the trail was made by Uline for the community.
- AN briefed the committee on the KPI held with Uline for the VZAP; the company rep did NOT offer that the trail was for the community. Rather that the company does not actively remove community users from the trail.
- Committee discussed how liability is an issue for companies with trail-type amenities; however, recommendation should be considered where Twp may work with companies to provide agreements for community access; linking amenities to extend distance of walkable/bikeable loops.
- Connection to 309 trail system near Hassan Creek

2. Retrofitting Stormwater Management Areas

- RG showed some pics from the SC-UMT day meeting; illustrating current conditions of SWM basins
- Conversion of these lands to a more naturalized area encouraging some habitat and passive recreation opportunities.
- Committee commented on the value of having these areas close to active recreation sites---while children participate in sports---other family members enjoy a pretty, quiet space.

3. Example: Wehrs Dam Park

- Committee recommended Wehrs Dam park near Orefield Middle School as an example: covered bridge, walkway; naturalized; good family participation on this trail; educational signage.

Next Steps:

- CM4: January 14, 2025- Initial Concepts
- Completion of Focus Groups and KPIs

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