

Open Space & Brownfields

January 12, 2022

1:00pm-2:00pm

Zoom



Notes

I. Welcome and Introductions

- a. 18 attendees; 8 Camden residents/businesses

II. Hot Topics

- a. Yaffa & Sons Property – Soil Pile
 - Conversations continuing
- b. Block 1 lot 1
 - Some correspondence from owners; no concrete updates
 - Property owner is in charge of who has access to the site; they have not been cooperative in the past
 - Government can take this property if it goes bankrupt (20-year process, hoping to move sooner than that)
 - The owner has expressed an openness to easements for trail heads
 - 1. NV5 wants to design phase 3 of the Camden County link on this site
 - American Revolution Museum Presentation:
 - 1. Going to start exterior masonry this summer, then trail head work and other museum improvements/ additions
 - 2. Raised \$400,000 for the \$300,000 project
 - 3. Theme for the building is the American revolution for south jersey, often overlooked between Philadelphia and North Jersey
 - a. Want to tell historical story and modern history of equal rights
 - 4. If the site is ever cleaned, can get American Battlefield Protection money and Green Acres money as matching dollars
 - 5. Environmental issues at site should not preclude any future use such as trail and museum improvements
- c. Sustainability Ordinance: how it is used by the planning board (Dr. Williams, Director of Planning for Camden City)
 - How it works:
 - 1. Implemented via the Zoning Code
 - 2. When someone applies for site plan/ etc., Zoning Board has a pre-application meeting to go through requirements
 - a. Based on the type of development, they may do a different type of review
 - b. They alert the developer about what will be asked of them
 - 3. The ordinance requires EIS or traffic analysis no matter the size of the plan proposed
 - 4. The ordinance itself is vague and leaves the planning board and the developer to make up and address specific sustainability goals
 - Thoughts on edits/ additions to the ordinance:
 - 1. Want it to clarify specific metrics behind goals so there is less wiggle room

- a. Ex: Redevelopment of the waterfront, may fit the sustainability ordinance but does not acknowledge environmental justice issues; this could be addressed with new rules
 - 2. Ordinance is from 2015, would need data to support any adjustments to keep in line with climate change (ex: [NJDEP Climate Change Report](#))
 - 3. Look to Newark's sustainability ordinance which supposedly has bit more "teeth" than Camden's: <https://ecode360.com/36713878>
 - The ordinance does cover stormwater; CCMUA does outreach to upstream communities on their stormwater management which has an impact on Camden's
- d. Tracy Carluccio, Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) Deputy Director: update on a new effort DRN and partners have launched on the new LNG train routes
 - DRN is working in opposition to plans for trains carrying liquified natural (LNG) extracted from wells in PA through Camden (amongst other cities and towns) by train and by truck
 - 1. In court fighting currently
 - 2. Pipeline and hazardous material administration: approved the LNG to go from PA plant to NJ
 - Train route approved by DOT across Delair Bridge then on freight tracks (Conrail) through Camden to the Gibbstown facility
 - Transporting LNG was banned for decades due to public dangers
 - 1. DOT considering rescinding rule to allow LNG on rail ways
 - DRN will be doing public forums and outreach to neighborhoods this goes through. Get in touch with Tracy Carluccio: tracy@delawareriverkeeper.org
 - 1. cell: 215.692.2329
 - [Interactive map](#) of impacts, disproportionately low-income folks of color
 - Power plant in south Camden would not be supplied by this
 - What would be most impactful/useful from the CCI and residents?
 - 1. 2 dozen municipal resolutions passed against this effort, adding Camden would be great
 - 2. Petition for individuals to sign coming soon
 - Any effect on upcoming Camden-Glasboro line? Likely not.

III. Park Planning

- a. Current Issues
 - Parks and Open Space Plan Steering Committee Meeting (Jan. 11th) Takeaways
 - 1. TPL, CCP, and the City applied for grant opportunity LOI through Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to fund park maintenance/ parks dept
 - a. The application was not moved to the second round of considerations
 - b. During the meeting, brainstormed alternative short-term solutions
 - 2. The motion to incorporate the Camden Parks and Open Space Plan into the Master Plan for Camden was passed unanimously
 - 3. DPW is looking to hire 30 seasonal employees for park maintenance
 - a. Idea: They can work in tandem with some community orgs, bolstering each other
 - East Camden Green Rail Buffer Conceptual Design kicked off

- 1. Awaiting initial designs from consultant
 - Petty's island programming with Center for Aquatic Sciences; programming starting in April
 - a. Looking for more funding
 - b. Key Next Steps
- IV. Park Security & Maintenance**
 - a. Current Issues
 - Regards for Officer Nunez and Macpherson's diligent work in park security
 - b. Key Next Steps
- V. Brownfields**
 - a. Current Issues
 - N. Camden Brownfields Assessments underway with PS&S: moving to Phase Is
 - Site clearing at Knox site in North Camden
 - 1. Currently conducting site assessment
 - b. Key Next Steps
- VI. Programming**
 - a. Current Issues
 - b. Key Next Steps
- VII. 2022 Open Space & Brownfields Working Group Work Plan**
 - a. Revisit 2022 [Open Space & Brownfields Working Group Action Plan](#): goals, strategies, objectives
 - ALL CCI MEMBERS: Fill out this [Form](#)
- VIII. Additional Information/Resources**
 - a. Cramer Hill Waterfront park
 - Slight issues with having the gates open
 - Urban promise: the kayak launch does not lend itself to big canoe/ kayak trips
 - 1. Extremely steep concrete ramp that you can't stand on, can't get a boat up on; you can do one kayak at a time if you take off the railing
 - 2. Send frank a sentence or two
 - Field trip destination + programming
 - 1. Can still have a storage container for other activities

DISCLAIMER: This is a summary of the meeting and is based upon the written notes and memory of individuals from Cooper's Ferry Partnership and members of the CCI Core Team. The notes are intended to capture only the main points made in the meeting, and they reflect comments on work-in-progress. The notes do not imply a specific opinion or commitment on the part of any individual or organization represented at the meeting. Report any corrections to camdencollaborative@camdencpinc.com

Next Meeting: CCI Open Space & Brownfields Working Group Meeting, February 9th at 1 pm