

Open Space & Brownfields

February 9, 2022

1:00pm-2:00pm

Zoom



Notes

I. Welcome and Introductions

- a. 17 attendees; 12 Camden residents/businesses

II. Hot Topics

- a. Molina drop test is occurring to ensure safety of playground (location of new GI via TPL)
- b. Yaffa & Sons Property – Soil Pile
 - Mayor Carstarphen and commissioner la Tourette met to discuss how DEP can assist mayor and local partners for planning resolutions to the site
 - Background:
 - 1. Need to be permitted to handle solid waste (this owner was/is not, 2 years of violations at least)
 - 2. DEP and the County both regulate solid waste movement in NJ
 - Contamination:
 - 1. DEP and American Water have collected some preliminary data
 - 2. So far only low levels of contamination- similar to “historic fill” seen throughout Camden- have been found
 - a. It was limited sampling; DEP wants to sample more
 - 3. If acute levels of contaminants are found, both NJDEP and EPA can take actions to remove the threat more immediately
 - The solution will have to be multi-faceted approach
 - 1. Owner has said that he does not have the financial resources to carry out some of the potential solutions
 - a. The clean-up of the site is unfortunately a long-term task
 - i. Ex: Camden Labs took 5 years from dumping site to park; we know less about this site than Camden labs
 - b. Cost recovery is long term; DEP believes there will be more short-term funding coming in to play
 - c. CRA is conducting redevelopment planning in the area
 - d. EPA is also evaluating the site
- c. Block 1 lot 1
 - No owner response to DEP this month
 - Historical Society had a meeting with the county 2 weeks ago
 - 1. They are planning/ hoping to subdivide the land and take the portions which include the trail location and the Benjamin Cooper House
 - 2. They will propose boundaries, do appraisals, surveying, etc. and see what happens
 - 3. Jack will coordinate with this group about the trails piece specifically
 - The pier that extends to the water is off limits for now
- d. Questions, comments, or continuing thoughts on last month’s special presentations:

- **Sustainability Ordinance**, how it is used by the planning board (Dr. Williams, Director of Planning for Camden City)
- **LNG Train Route Plans**, new effort DRN and partners have launched opposed to [the plans](#) (Tracy Carluccio, DRN Deputy Director)

III. **Park Planning**

a. Current Issues

- Trail Signage Project (Jack O'Byrne, Camden County Historical Society)
 1. Benjamin Cooper House -> American Revolution Museum for Southern NJ
 2. This location would be trail head for county's 33-mile link trail, connecting to Pyne Poynt Park specifically
 3. Plans to work with school system on civic education
 4. May have a community room with rest rooms and other rest area amenities
 5. Plans for 35-40 signs around county
 - a. Mostly for historic, interpretive signs
 - i. 6 different interpretive sign locations in Camden city specifically (2024 installation)
 - ii. Mobile app to connect users to all of the signs/ trails digitally
 - b. At some locations, will do map signs with larger perspective
 - c. At 2 locations, will have kiosks with larger perspective
 6. Self-guided audio tour (driving and walking tours)
 7. Suggestions:
 - a. Include Camden cemetery around Lady of Lords
 - b. Recognize marginalized groups' affects from American revolution
- CRA is advancing assessment work on the gateway site
- Harrison & State St. [Expo Pilot project](#) with DVRPC underway: Summer 2022 implementation

b. Key Next Steps

IV. **Park Security & Maintenance**

a. Current Issues

- Planning board approved the Camden Parks and Open Space Plan; press release coming soon

b. Key Next Steps

- Considering a conservancy partnership with some funders
- Considering a park marketing plan (separate from the parks plan) to educate residents on availability of parks in their neighborhood

V. **Brownfields**

a. Current Issues

- N. Camden Brownfields Assessments: Phase Is completed moving to Phase IIs

b. Key Next Steps

VI. **Programming**

a. Current Issues

- To do: create an "active" marketing plan that inspires residents to create their own Camden Adventure and then offer them the opportunities for kayaking, fishing, birding, learning about history and more
 - b. Key Next Steps
 - For the upcoming spring/ summer season: coordinate programming, marketing, etc. between the watershed fellows, Connect the Lots, and other similar groups and programs
 - 1. Potentially we can pool together a calendar of events for CCI members
- VII. 2022 Open Space & Brownfields Working Group Work Plan**
- a. 2022 [Open Space & Brownfields Working Group Work Plan progress report](#): shortfalls, accomplishments, and a path forward
 - ALL CCI MEMBERS: Fill out this [Form](#)
- VIII. Additional Information/Resources**

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, March 9th at 1 pm