

## Open Space & Brownfields

May 10, 2023

11:00am-12:00pm

Zoom



### Notes

#### I. **Welcome and Introductions**

- a. Opening Question: If you came to the summit, what was one thing you enjoyed and one thing you'd change
  - If you didn't make the summit: What prevented you from going?
- Enjoyed:
  - Field trips were great: loved waterfront south
  - Great opportunity to make connections
  - Zinnia plants and fertilizer were a great addition
  - Frank's moderation of the first panel was great
  - Celebrating the wins and recalibrating generally was exactly what we needed
- Prevented me from coming:
  - Facebook stream did not work out
  - Timing didn't work out

#### II. **Opening Conversation: State of the city's brownfields portfolio**

- a. Solar projects- working with Hopeworks to learn about solar development
  - Working with youth leadership group
- b. Article: "Bring Back Blighted Sites" – Frank McLaughlin:  
[http://www.camdencollaborative.com/uploads/6/2/8/5/6285355/nj\\_lom\\_article\\_on\\_bring\\_back\\_blighted\\_sights\\_5-23.pdf](http://www.camdencollaborative.com/uploads/6/2/8/5/6285355/nj_lom_article_on_bring_back_blighted_sights_5-23.pdf)
- c. Tree planting competitive opportunity: what schools? Ask Quincy (Matt Farrell)
  - Make sure that they are not planted in areas that will be enhanced/redeveloped
  - Consult parks and open spaces to not overlap
- d. Justin
  - Meeting with NJ tree foundation next week to identify city-wide tree forestry implementation grant
  - Looking to convening with county and city to develop a Camden tree plan
    1. Consult with planners in Philadelphia
    2. City wide advisory/ steering committee
    3. Address inequity without perpetuating inequity
  - Want to work these paths concurrently
  - What is the strategy for tree plantings?
    1. Type of detail we want to see in the plan
    2. Right tree right place... publication that defines this (not specific to Camden though)
  - TPL selected NV5 for Mastery HS Design project, officially!
- e. Topical Brownfield Projects:
  - Dom. Andujar Park: will be completed in June by the County; construction of Park improvements

- 1. Then a few more environmental items before being open to the public
  - Elijah Perry: CRA board to award the remediation bid (this month) within the June/July timeframe; and CCP issuance of the bid for construction of the Park improvements will follow
    - 1. Construction to start in August hopefully into next year
    - 2. Taking out historic fill, putting in cap layer and pathways to create a barrier with contaminated soil
  - Yaffa: Contaminated soil material from two of three soil piles removed and disposed of to a facility outside of Camden City. Soil Removal Notes:
    - 1. Pile D – March 2023, averaged 40 loads per day over 2 days. Total of 80 loads (2,128 TONS).
    - 2. Pile A – May 2023, averaged about 50 loads per day over 2.5 days. Estimated total of 118 loads (3,100 TONS).
      - a. Starting env assessment on this property
    - 3. Soil material from the largest dirt pile will be removed over the course of several months
      - a. Going to bid, start within the next month or two
  - North Camden Waterfront Park: CRA working with the City and CCP for finalize the steps, leading to bidding out the remediation and Park construction
    - 1. May be reaching out to Frank on this
  - Knox: agreement with CC improvement authority for demo, will remove foundation then remediation; realistically will start end of this year, early next year
    - 1. Developable tract
  - Johnson Staley park: getting park design from Simbas, new field, etc.
    - 1. Address contamination: putting in a cap, applied for funding to clean up site
    - 2. Design want to get done by fall so remediation can start at the turn of the year assuming funding can be in place
    - 3. On a quicker timeline than Whitman park
    - 4. Some repositories for meeting minutes
- f. Frank: dealing with funding of all these projects; a lot of older parks need to rehab
- g. Cramer Hill Brownfield Development Area, North Camden Brownfield Development Area, potentially adding a third
  - Vince, Michele Christina on this job

### III. Today's Focus: North Camden Brownfields Website and Engagement Plan

- a. Last time: Walk through North Camden Brownfields website
  - Frank wants to add in a small bit about NJDEP support for brownfields in Camden: HDFRS
    - 1. Important to hit on the education piece
    - 2. Set up a meeting to discuss how to best weave in NJDEP education
  - Public facing pages
    - 1. Story map: for an education tool to share with residents
    - 2. Community input survey: gauge opinions ahead of re-use planning meetings
  - Tools/ internal pages

1. Dashboard: to guide eventual community meetings about re-use planning
  2. Web mapping application: used in re-use planning meetings to guide discussion
- b. This time: Engagement Plan
- Finding and convening the coalition of the willing for brownfield re-use planning in North Camden
    1. CLHI
    2. Mastery HS- Gardening Club
    3. Neighborhood Collaborative Community Gardens
    4. Consult neighborhood plan
    5. Linda offered to be an environmental educator
      - a. Can review materials
    6. Used to have separate working group for Cramer Hill and north Camden BDAs
    7. Environmental task force for Councilwoman Reyes's ward
      - a. Community youth education based
    8. Transparency is key... don't hesitate to reach out to NJDEP folks
      - a. McLaughlin, Frank [DEP] [Frank.McLaughlin@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Frank.McLaughlin@dep.nj.gov)
  - When to plug in community versus stakeholders
    1. Once Phase II is complete
  - Examples of brownfield engagement/ fostering EJ leadership
    1. [Learners to Leaders EJ Literacy Curriculum](#)
    2. Others?

#### IV. Additional Information/Resources

- a. How do we choose brownfields to remediate?
- Regulatory controls
  - Geotechnical concerns
  - Local government is the major decider for land use
  - 3 things that drive redevelopment
    1. Local gov
    2. Bottom up: community high lights the issue and become priority
    3. Private land owners/ developers
- b. Thank you to all who participated in and supported the 2023 Camden Environmental Summit; please complete the feedback survey [linked here](#)
- And check out the summit recap video linked [here](#)!

**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](mailto:camdencollaborative@camdencpinc.com)

*Next Meeting: All Working Group Meeting, June 7<sup>th</sup> 1 pm- 2:30 pm in person Rutgers Camden Campus Center (326 Penn St. 08102)*