

Open Space & Brownfields

June 8, 2022

1:00pm-2:00pm

Zoom



Agenda

I. Welcome and Introductions

- a. 17 attendees; 7 Camden residents/businesses

II. Hot Topics

- a. Yaffa & Sons Property – Soil Pile
 - Frank McLaughlin, NJDEP: Owner has been served, case will be heard in Burlington Co.
 1. Legally, DEP and City of Camden are both taking action
 2. Conversations are being initiated for identifying funds to take soil samples at the pile, and down the road, funding removal of the pile. Still preliminary, few details
 3. Keep in mind the protracted nature of legal action, tangible results of action shouldn't be expected in the short term
 - Michele Christina, BRS: Bid for soil removal is put on hold until the MOU can be completed between NJDEP, CRA, Camden County, and the City of Camden
 1. City is working on foreclosure for some of the properties
- b. Block 1 lot 1
 - Owner broke promises to neighborhood and DEP; legal activity being pursued
- c. Camden Parks and Open Space Plan Steering Committee: Programming, Arts, Culture
 - Recap: Discussion of what was needed to promote parks
 - Discussion of how to open Rutgers field to community, that is the next step
 - Farnham Park—restore pavilion or create new one
 - Next meeting August, evening, resident facing (date TBD)

III. Park Planning, Security, and Maintenance

- a. Current Issues
 - Frank (NJDEP): open space, trail, waterfront access and green infrastructure opportunities in Camden
 1. Blue and green carbon sequestration [funding opportunity](#)
 - a. Deadline is July 13th
 - b. Maybe can tie into mastery project by riparian buffer by Cooper waterfront homes
 - i. Remove invasive species and plant native species
 - ii. Justin, TPL: loop in CLHI
 - Justin, TPL: improvements to Stockton Park, and programming (in support of 1-2 friends of group for Stockton station park)
 1. Submitted \$20k grant application with TPL, Camden Greenways, Rails to Trails
 - Sara: status of I-676 disconnect?
 1. Options being explored still.
 - Linda: status of North Camden waterfront?
 1. There was a funding gap that has just recently been met. The project will go out to bid this summer likely.

- Justin, TPL: park renovation and green schools
 1. Experiential learning space \$1.5 million might come through- high likelihood of being funded
 2. Environmental curriculum- Mastery is working through what they want to see constructed at their campus

b. Key Next Steps

IV. Brownfields

a. Current Issues

- North Camden Brownfields:
 1. New scope for website: think about end user/ end use when developing
 - a. Justin recommended encouraging community engagement with it if that is to be the intention
 - b. Sara suggested addressing school community
 2. 7 of 10 sites selected for Phase 2 review (awaiting approval from EPA)
- Lead Dust Abatement Plans in East Camden: preliminary feedback
 1. Missy: three East Camden site design plans for vacant lots
 - a. River and State St.: remediated green area to compliment Phoenix Festival across the water
 - b. Bank St. just north of Cousin's Grocery: park space which highlights existing walking paths and adds greenery
 - c. Westfield Ave/ Cramer St. Dusty lot: formalize parking usage with pervious pavement and greenery
- Frank (NJDEP): introduction of the brownfields inventory in Camden, opportunities for the open space projects
- Sara: Martin Aaron site status? Frank not aware of latest status
 1. the remedy for the site, which required the excavation of contaminated soil with disposal off-site followed by backfilling and capping of residual soil contamination, is functioning as intended.
 2. However, due to the soil contamination remaining on the property, the future use of the site is restricted
 3. At present, the responsible parties are conducting a groundwater monitoring plan to evaluate the impact of the soil clean-up on groundwater quality (this information will be used to refine the remedy for the groundwater contamination)

b. Key Next Steps

V. Programming

a. Current Issues

- Center for Aquatic Sciences [Calendar](#); Connect the Lots [Calendar](#)
- Linda: successful free fishing day at Cramer Hill Waterfront Park; next is on October 22
 1. DEP can support with fishing poles
 2. Maybe additional days, there is some funding for people to get licensed
- Missy: Camden Night Gardens event successful (about 2000 attendees)

b. Key Next Steps

VI. Additional Information/Resources

- a. CCI Community Leadership Opportunities coming up
 - SJCS is putting out an environmental leadership program that will provide training for environmental leadership
- b. [PSEG neighborhood grant](#) relevant to CCI Open Space/ Brownfields initiatives?
 - \$500-\$1,500

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, July 13th at 1 pm