

SIMONE COLLINS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
119 EAST LAFAYETTE STREET NORRISTOWN, PA 19401
PHONE: 610.239.7601 FAX: 610.239.7606
WWW.SIMONECOLLINS.COM

MEETING NOTES

Project:	Comprehensive Plan for Whitpain Township	Project No.:	14083.10
Location:	Montgomery County Community College – College Hall Rm 144	Meeting Date/Time:	2/5/15 7:00 pm
Topic:	Town Hall Meeting #1	Issue Date:	2/13/2015

ATTENDEES:

See attached Attendance List

BACKGROUND:

Fred Connor, Whitpain Township Supervisor, began the meeting by welcoming those in attendance and introducing the project committee and planning consultants. Fred also honored the memory of Whitpain resident and longtime Chairman of the Shade Tree Commission, Joseph Steur, who recently passed away. Fred then introduced the keynote speaker, Tom Hylton, a Pulitzer-prize winning journalist and author of *Save Our Land, Save Our Towns*. Following Tom Hylton's presentation, the planning consultants discussed the purpose of the Comprehensive Plan, gave a brief overview Whitpain Township's demographics and existing features, and discussed existing conditions, challenges, and opportunities of the Broad Axe Village. Those in attendance were encouraged to take the online citizen survey. Comments can also be mailed, emailed, or discussed via telephone with the planning consultants, Simone Collins.

NOTES:

Following the presentation by the planning consultants, the meeting was opened up for public questions and comments. The notes below summarize responses and discussion from the meeting attendees.

Goals

- Update Comprehensive Plan
- Enhance Quality of Life for Residents
- Protect the Health & Safety of those who enjoy Whitpain
- Preserve Natural & Cultural resources of the Township

- Embrace the Future while Cherishing Township heritage

Facts

- 4 Village Areas in Township
- Heavy traffic is a reality.
- Nearby SEPTA rail lines only run hourly at night.

- Pennlyn SEPTA rail station is very dark, not safe, and has limited parking.
- Trash collection is an issue. Too many collectors in the Township.
- There are no trails in Prophecy Creek Park.
- The gas station at Butler Pike and Skippack Pike has been vacant for around 10 years.
- The current zoning near Centre Square has restrictive requirements.
- There are about 100 houses built around 1950 near Broad Axe Village. Important to maintain their character.
- There are 14 empty lots in W. Ambler Village area.
- W. Ambler superfund site was recently part of a revitalization effort.
- The Belfry Station was a train station in Whitpain on the former Stony Creek Branch. No longer active.
- Over 90% of water supply in Whitpain is public water service.
- Vacant property near Prophecy Creek Park and Broad Axe Village.
- County Open Space fund has been exhausted.
- Geese are an issue at parks and open space.
- There are no true boundaries to the villages.
- Walkability in the Township is an issue. Getting to existing trails is difficult.
- Township will need to seek funding for new trails.
- Options for trails include narrowing vehicular travel lanes or using PECO ROW.
- Build trails within Prophecy Creek Park.
- Create a design plan/guidelines for future development.
- Create more attractive architecture and streetscapes in the villages.
- Are there plans for Route 73, Butler Pike, or other main arterial roadways in the Twp?
- Incentivize owners of vacant buildings to demolish the buildings and plant grass to improve appearance.
- Route 202 and Route 73 is a prominent location that needs improvements.
- Remedy traffic along with gas station development.
- Redevelopment of properties in Whitpain will be needed since it is mostly built out.
- More restrictive zoning and less incentive based zoning has worked in the past and could be implemented in Broad Axe.
- West Ambler Village and the superfund site should be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan.

Concepts

- Enhance the village area appearances
- Enhance pedestrian networks connections
- Enhance stormwater management
- Traffic calming
- Connections to mass transit / bus network
- Recreational opportunities
- More regular rail service to Ambler
- Connect Broad Axe Village to Ambler with a trail and sidewalks.
- Connect Broad Axe to Prophecy Creek Park and Blue Bell.
- Connect currently preserved open space
- Two potential funding agencies are DCNR and Commonwealth Financing Authority.
- Prioritize stormwater and green infrastructure improvements.
- Are there other villages in Whitpain that should be studied? Where are the boundaries?
- PENNVEST is an option for stormwater funding.
- Need to manage geese at existing and new parks and open space.

The presentation from this meeting will be made available on the Township website. The next Town Hall meeting will be held on February 25th, 2015, 7:00 pm at the Manor House at Prophecy Creek, 205 W. Skippack Pike, Ambler, PA 19002. This meeting will discuss Environmental Factors and the Blue Bell Village. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Jeff Featherstone, Professor of Community & Regional Planning, Temple University - Ambler. Residents are also invited to take the 26 question online survey available at the following link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WhitpainCompPlan>

or go to **<http://www.whitpaintownship.net/>**

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 from the Committee within ten days of issue, the report shall be considered factually correct and shall become part of the official project record.

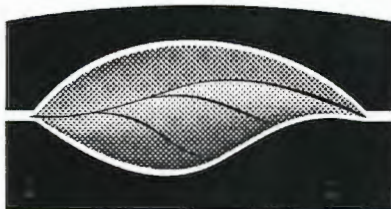
Sincerely,

SIMONE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jared Lowman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jared" and last name "Lowman" clearly distinguishable.

Jared Lowman, RLA
Project Manager

Cc: Committee
Sandy Koza, McMahon Associates
Chris Lankenau, Urban Partners



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MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

Project: Whitpain Township
Comprehensive Plan

Project: SC:14083.10
No.:

Location: Montgomery County Community College
College Hall Rm. 144 / 148

Date: 2/04/2015

Topic: Town Hall Meeting #1

Time: 7:00 PM

NAME	
1.	Mr & Mrs. J.H. Raynes
2.	Bob Whitlock
3.	Tom Messmer
4.	DOUGLAS ROUTH
5.	BRAD TATE
6.	MARK PRINCE
7.	Ellen Cobb
8.	Alice Rand & Patrick Hennessy
9.	John Greder
10.	JOSEPH CAMPBELL
11.	Julie Decker
12.	Betsy Holler
13.	Bruce Barner
14.	Tim NUTT
15.	Kimberly Zampieri



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NAME
16. Steven Choyce
17. William Lutz
18. Jim Meyer
19. SANDY Meyer
20. Betty Hefner
21. Bob Altmeyer
22. WARREN L. BARNHART
23. Harry Jenkins
24. Tamson Zucker
25. Pat Mathues
26. Harold Mathues
27. Pam Steitz
28. David Buck
29. Chris Valle
30. Charles Christine
31. Dorothy Christine
32. Henry DeStueber
33. Kathy Gallagher
34. Mark Eberle
35. Roman Prociak
36. Liz Roben
37. David Lieberman
38. CAROL DALLMAN
39.
40.



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NAME		
16.	Otis Hightower	
17.	Alice Wright	
18.	ROBERT TREJO	
19.	Ruth Weeks	
20.	Britt Dahlberg	
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