



8/6/10

Cumberland County Open Space and Recreation Master Plan

SC# 09154.1

MEETING MINUTES – Study Committee Meeting #2

Meeting Dates: August 5, 2010

Meeting Time: 2:00 PM

Location: County Administration Building, Bridgeton

Present: See attached attendance list.

1. Roger Ruske (Cumberland County Planning Board) began the meeting with introductions.
2. Peter Simone and Stephen Sinclair (Simone Collins) gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Study Committee. A summary of discussion items follows below. The presentation is available for download in PDF format on the County's project website:
<http://www.co.cumberland.nj.us/content/173/251/761/2947/3098/8932/default.aspx>
3. Stephen Sinclair (Simone Collins) reviewed partial telephone survey results, based on tabulation of 178 of the 200 total interviews. It was explained that the final survey results would be available in report format by mid-August. In general, the survey results indicate that County residents' recreational needs are being met at the present time. Even so, a majority of County residents would like more public parks, natural areas and open space areas to be preserved in the County.
4. It was noted that the survey is also available on the internet (accessible from the website listed above). Results from the internet survey will not be statistically-valid, but will nonetheless help guide preparation of the Master Plan.
5. An overview of other county government models for the provision of open space and recreation was presented. The Counties selected for review include Cape May, Salem and Warren in New Jersey and Lebanon County in Pennsylvania. The organizational structures of these counties represent a wide range of options – from full-service park and recreation departments to County-owned facilities managed and maintained by non-profit groups.
6. The "Balanced Land Use Concept" from the NJ Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) was discussed. The concept is a means of estimating the amount of recreational land that should be set aside by local governments in order to provide

recreation opportunities for existing and future residents. The guideline is that a minimum 7% of “developed and developable” land within a county should be set aside for recreational open space. The Open Space and Recreation Plans for Cape May and Warren Counties both use this method for determining open space need. Using the Balanced Land Use Concept, 37% of the developed and developable land in Cumberland County is preserved – approximately 5 times greater than the SCORP recommendation.

7. A “Preserved Lands” map (prepared by Simone Collins) was presented that removed preserved farmland and also indicated water bodies. For comparison, freshwater and tidal wetlands were overlaid onto this map to create a map showing only preserved lands that are not wetlands. Comparing the two maps, it is clear that a substantial portion of existing preserved lands in the County are tidal wetlands. As such, portions of these lands could be lost should sea level rise in the future.
8. Peter Simone explained that potential greenway / trail linkages, strategic areas for open space development or acquisition and possible county organizational structures would be presented at the next Study Committee meeting.
9. The Study Committee suggested:
 - a. When determining areas for open space acquisition, the State Plan should be consulted – particularly in regard for areas 1, 2 and 3 (all Smart Growth Areas).
 - b. When determining greenways, consider potential “travel corridors”, which would be destination-oriented.
10. The idea of focusing the Master Plan on how parks and open space can boost economic development in the County was discussed.
11. The State’s PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Tax) program was discussed. As Cumberland County plays a significant role in providing the State with open space, there is interest in the State creating a dedicated funding source for PILOT payments to municipalities.

The preceding notes are the professional’s summation of the meeting and not an official transcript. Please advise of any errors or omissions.

Submitted by:

SIMONE COLLINS
Landscape Architecture

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Sinclair". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" and last name "Sinclair" clearly distinguishable.

Stephen Sinclair

Cc: Meeting attendees
Study Committee members
Ted Reed, Reed Group, LLC.

Cumberland County Open Space & Recreation Master Plan

Study Committee Meeting 2 (Conference Room, County Administration Building)

August 5, 2010, 2:00 PM

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