

MEETING NOTES

Project:	Mercer County Dam Site 21 Master Plan	Project No.:	18063.10
Location	Mercer County Community College Conference Center, 1200 Old Trenton Road West Windsor, NJ 08550	Time	6:30 – 8:30 PM
		Date:	03.07.2019
Re:	Public Meeting 1		

ATTENDEES:

See attached sign in sheet

NOTES:

1. Aaron Watson, Executive Director of the Mercer County Parks Commission welcomed attendees and kicked off the meeting. Peter Simone of Simone Collins gave a brief presentation about the project background, general site analysis, and a photo tour of the site. He then opened the meeting up for questions, and a brainstorming session. The following notes are the results of the brainstorming session and discussion.
2. Goals:
 - Create a Master Plan
 - Protect and Enhance Resources
 - Be Good Neighbors
 - Maintain the Experience
 - Suggested Name: "Miry Run Natural Area"
3. Facts:
 - 55-acre Lake
 - Beautiful!
 - Hughes Road has high traffic
 - No "water park"
 - Current bird watching on site
 - 64 different birds have been spotted
 - Kayaking
 - Lake is shallow on the east side

- The boat launch is well used
- Access from neighborhoods is a Sewer Right-of-Way
- Existing deer stands
- Wetland is beautiful
- Neighborhood cut-through traffic has increased
- Robbinsville trail connecting to Combs Road is well used
- On-street parking damaged curbing on neighborhood roads
- Dumping happening on roads around the site
- Biodiversity Declining
- Sledding hill well used
- Site character is different from Mercer County Park
- The site fulfills a need in the County
- Beavers on site
- Miry Run stream assessment
- Killdeer birds
- Wood Duck
- Christmas Bird Count (New Jersey Audubon) – list of birds seen on site
- 50 birds in the winter
 - i. American Kestrel
 - ii. Horn Larks on Line Road
- Dam outfall pond is heavily sedimented
- Blue Bird trail
- Hughes Drive is dangerous
- 2-4 lanes on Hughes Drive
- Mercer County Park parking overflows onto Hughes Drive
- Must mitigate stormwater
- Mercer County has the best parks
- Construction on wetlands on Hughes Drive harms stormwater management
- deer
- beaver
- snapping turtles
- fishing
- Existing flood control Site
- Dam embankment never breached

- Robbinsville Lake degraded
- Peaceful and quiet
- Tindall family farm since 1912
- Trash on site
- Flock Road traffic issues
- Applegate Drive traffic issues
- Mercer Street traffic issues
- Survey: unclear wording
- Assunpink Lake too busy
- Pollutant Study: reduce phosphorus load
- Gunfire sounds coming from dam area
- RVs on site
- County has set aside many dollars towards park restoration
- Citizen's Science

4. Concepts

- **Access – Connections -Trails**
 - Better deep-water access
 - Sledding access
 - Limit boat access
 - Connect to Mercer County Park
 - No cars
 - No pavement
 - No bike paths
 - Pedestrian safety on Hughes Drive
 - Crosswalk on Hughes drive
 - “Hike-In Only” access
 - Keep access as is
 - Don't impact residents with access
 - Gate vehicle access
 - Access from Old Trenton Road
- **Parking**
 - Concern: Combs Road parking
 - Shared parking
 - Limit parking

- No expanded parking Hughes Drive
- Parking at Mercer County Technical School
- **Facilities / Activities**
 - Passive park
 - No sports fields
 - Elevated walks in marsh areas
 - Warming hut
 - Compostable toilet
 - No fancy boat launch
 - Bird blind
 - Car-top-carried boats only
 - No electric boats
 - Passive trails
 - Clear trails
 - Passive recreation
 - Nature trail
 - Mountain bike trails
 - Short trails
 - Paths for walkers
 - Concern: size of structures
 - Docks
 - Concessions
 - Small Amphitheater
 - Boardwalk
 - No structures
 - Sustainable small building
 - Bike parking
 - Maintain sledding
 - Warming hut near sledding
 - Passive recreation
 - Exercise on trails
 - Resting areas along trails
 - Benches
 - Walking trail

- Bike other places in the County
- Concern: canoe safety
- Concern: swimming safety
- Swimming safety personnel
- No motorized boats
- Improve safety
- **Education**
 - Tour program small groups of kids
 - Education along trails
- **Preservation / Restoration**
 - Limit vegetation clearing
 - Concern: vegetation clearing on Line Rd
 - Concern: impact to bird habitat
 - Use native vegetation
 - Concern: wildlife preservation
 - Clean Up Teams
 - Remove invasive plants
 - Native planting
 - Preserve wildlife
 - Support beaver population
 - Concern: Humans push out birds
 - Buffer for nesting areas
 - Concern: rerouting mountain bike trails affecting wildlife habitat
 - Concern: don't see deer in park
 - Concern: don't see wildlife in park
 - More wildlife
 - Children's nature center
 - Environmental impact study
 - Concern: tree removal
 - Preserve trees
 - Remove invasive species
 - Tree restoration
 - Undeveloped wildlife refuge
 - Concern: construction destruction

- Address pollution loads (phosphorous)
- Clean up site
- Habitat assessment below dam
-
- **Development Approach**
 - Minimal development
 - Keep natural
 - Leave untouched areas
 - Advertise Master Plan more
 - Concern: is there a need for a park?
 - As little destruction as possible
 - Concern: do we need a park?
 - Keep park the way it is
 - Focus on fixing Mercer County Park instead
 - Doesn't have to be for everyone
 - Difficult access will preserve the park
 - Concern: will it stay a passive park?
 - Concern: access causes problems
 - Maintain what is there now
 - Why are we doing this master plan?
 - Improve Mercer County Park instead
 - Best improvement is to leave alone
 - Publish survey results
- **Residential Interaction**
 - Keep residents in mind
 - Maintain quiet in park
 - Concern: parking too close to Combs Road
 - Screen residential areas
 - Be good neighbors
 - Concern: added noise
 - Concern: bus traffic in neighborhood
- **Traffic**
 - Concern: traffic issues
 - Traffic study

- Concern: no increased traffic
- **Stormwater / Flooding**
 - Concern: flooding on Miry Run
- **Security**
 - Concern: security
 - Concern: policing
 - Security cameras
- **Funding**
 - Concern: park funding increases taxes?
 - Concern: is money budgeted for development?
 - How much will the site cost?

5. Partners:

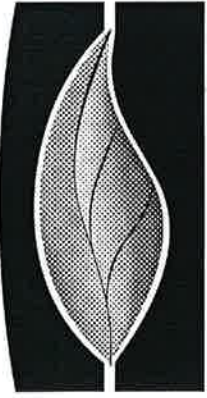
Mercer County Community College
 West Windsor Planning Board
 West Windsor Township
 Hamilton Township Planning Board
 Hamilton Township
 Robbinsville Township Planning Board
 Robbinsville Township
 Mercer County Technical School

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 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



Melissa Barley,
 Staff Landscape Architect

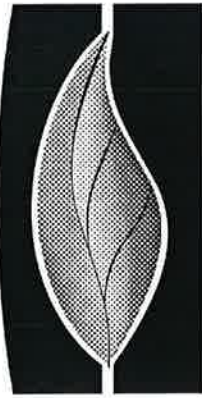


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MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

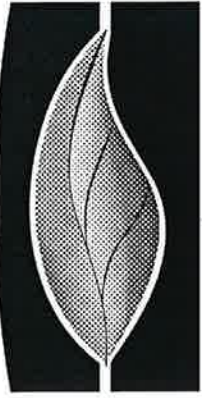
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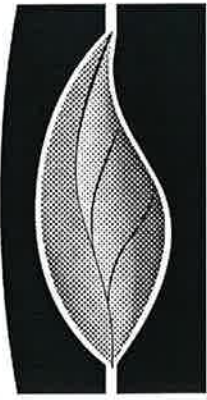
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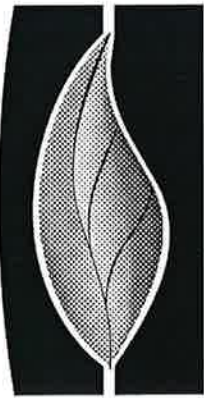
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