

East 40 Advisory Committee

23 February 2024

Zoom Link: <https://northampton-edu.zoom.us/j/91361085534>

January Minutes

Participants: Kelly Allen, Alex Brands, Alex Zuniga, Carol Burns, Holly O'Connor, Robin Cunconan-Lahr, Kegan Hilaire, Rachael Gorchoy, Nathan Ramos, Bill Smith, Catarina di Maria, Gina Turner, Rodney Weems, Cindy Vojnovic, Christine Pense

Agenda:

- East 40 Classroom Update
 - [Revised Concept Design](#)

New design reflects rounded corners, addition of shower, larger shared office space. Will not be off grid but should be zero net over time; photovoltaic panels on roof; will tap into sewer and water. Hopefully can take to Township soon; will need to seek variance for zoning – two options to pursue (institutional overlay and/or variance for current zoning). Accessibility: will need improvements for existing road for emergency vehicle access but we want to minimize vehicle access/parking; improvements will be made to current “path” from overflow parking. Has to align with Township regulations for length. Additional improvements to access road would require PennDot approval/excessive cost.

- Funding Match

We had to provide a match for the grant money, and we were able to use the 43 acres as the match. Thanks to Bill and the NCC grants team.

Timeframe: expected occupancy in February 2025 (but may see additional delays)

- Lenape Conference
 - **Homecoming: The Lenape Speak**
 - [Agenda Draft](#)

Full day program for Saturday, July 27 in College Center; six panel discussions. Hope to have registration info out soon; \$50 fee to cover basic expenses. Seeking additional funding for drumming, scholarships; students will video/photograph (sessions will be recorded).
 - Student Participation

Alex and Josh spearheading students doing video/photos
 - Future ideas: summer conference series – food conference, fire arts
- Residencies Update (Rachael)

As of today we have 5 applicants; due March 10. We know of 2 others. Lots of interest – keep pushing it out (is on today's Today@NCC email blast).
- Good Growers and East 40 Volunteerism

Five new students have joined Good Growers; interest in foraging. Primary project: convert former Community Garden spot to a native plant sanctuary. Will take a field trip to Edge of the Woods Native Plant nursery for guidance/inspiration. Also recruiting volunteers (students/community) – time on Thursdays (10 am – 3 pm) and Fridays (10 am – 3 pm). Alex leading this initiative. Promote on Today@NCC. Building new raised beds, handling building materials for Bethlehem Food Co-Op, support Kegan's farm/farmers market (hoping to get some spring markets going). If any students are interested, contact Kelly at kallen@northampton.edu.
- Spring Action Items (Update)
 - East 40 Grant Team
 - East 40 Strategic Plan
 - East 40 Mission Statement

Those interested will stay after this meeting to make plans.

- Spring Equinox, Tuesday, March 19 from 4-6 pm

The wood kiln will be fired the weekend before with works from Cindy and her students, Gabby Gentile/NCC students, and Kelly; opened at event. New building drawings will be shared. All are welcome!

- New East 40 Project Coordinator position

Position and budget are approved for full time position, year round. Need job description to post, and a committee to review applications. Primarily serve as project manager; oversee Garden Manager, scheduling classes and tours, financials (oversee budget, submit invoices, etc.), future conferences, liaison with onsite community ed classes. Timeline: ASAP / for end of semester – we need to get the right person. Committee: Carol, Gina, any others?

Questions: Previous discussion about a 'math team' - idea from Catarina, how math/STEAM faculty can utilize East 40 resources? Rodney, Catarina interested.

Table til fall.

Take aways:

Decisions made:

Post-meeting to discuss mission/vision/values: Gina, Cindy, Holly, Robin, Carol, Kegan meet on Friday, March 1 at 10 am; include Josh and Alex? Gina will send questions to Kelly/Carol to share with others (link below). Consider combining mission and vision into one statement. Robin will pull examples. Include 'place based learning' / 'place based experiences.' Also focus on "A community space for learning, growing and creating."

These are the questions used to create mission/vision/values for NCC's "Culture of Caring":

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TBsIR26yPmwkuIX7AoT1y3lWJ3wDdnCHvaw3788gjjE/edit?usp=sharing>