

East 40 Advisory Committee

6 October 2023

Zoom Link: <https://northampton-edu.zoom.us/j/93484556298>

September Minutes

Participants:

Kelly Allen, Carol Burns, Alex Zuniga, Abby Michelini, Alex Brands, Gina Turner, Holly O'Connor, Rodney Weems, Rachael Gorchoy, Catarina Di Marina, Robin Cunconan-Lahr

Agenda:

- East 40 Classroom Update
 - Kickoff Meeting – ReVision team – Drew, Joe, Kristen; Kelly, Alex Z, Bill Smith – went over calendar (opening Jan '25), walked property
Take down temporary buildings? Use by residency artists? Repurpose materials into new construction?
 - Focus Group – 15 respondents; look for representation from math department/science (student life? Karen Z? CTLT? Community ed? Fab Lab?)
 - Potential Impact on Current Capital Projects
request for finishing temporary structures – use white container? For onsite market? 😊
 - Schedule will go fast – drawings to share at Winter Solstice event (Dec. 21)?
- Lenape Nation of PA Update
Penndelco nation attacks – Lenape is not a state- or nationally-recognized nation
Provost Marc Singer, Adam De Paul, Brian Alnutt, Kelly – moving forward on

annual Lenape Nation conference (one day, summer 2024) and Lenape program (credit – Global Studies; non-credit – Community Ed)

- Blackbird Farm Update

3.5 acres were turned over yesterday, final till next week; Kegan meets with student volunteers on Thursdays – shape beds, put in cover crops

Autumn Equinox/Poetry Walk

Autumn Equinox – Sept. 22 / participation 30-40 people, 3 hour window in the middle of the day; debuted Poetry Walk – people meandering over the entire acreage (<https://www.abigailmichelini.com/east-40-poetry-walk>)

- Touchstone Event

“Seeds and Stories from the Land of the Lenape”

shuttled in participants / 20 registered – 15 attended?

stories/language/ceremony by Adam and Shelley

Abby shared poetry prompt

Amanda shared paper making

- Community Education East 40 Gardening Classes

Met with Katie Taylor/farmer and educator – met with Chris at Community Ed – kickstart gardening classes (for spring)

- Update on programs put on pause

- Compost Moravian Academy are bringing their own donations

- Volunteer and Service Learning thanks to Alex Z and Kegan – Thursdays

- New Deer Fence Update

volunteers for Tuesday to tear down old fence around part of community garden

- Committee Discussion about Residency

- Proposal to move up to three spots

Asked for money for 3 residents – funding lines for two; asked Humanities Endowment for funding for third (would need staff support / space) – so two or three? (may also be under construction / impact on space/Kelly time)

- Support Staff

Looking for way to finance Rachael's time to support visual artists
Manage call for application and review process / coordinate paperwork,
schedules, events – serve as point person

Also considered shifting of schedule to later in the summer / early fall
(more faculty / student engagement – tie in to Autumn Equinox)

- Committee Discussion about faculty support for class visits
 - How do we duplicate Kelly
 - “we're really popular” – lots of class visits, visiting with 1-3 faculty per week; several classes visiting per week
 - block parties, Opening Days – Dave Ruth mentioned to use us
 - Robin spoke to having an opportunity for her Special Ed class to hear more 'in depth' info about East 40 – Alex Z did a great job; have someone available to offer background info ('learning block')
 - Make available as audio tour / more signage? Train faculty? Summer Institute – 'train' faculty while they're at East 40? Work-study student (scheduling challenges / make a consistent schedule)?
 - Some kind of menu of how space can be used intentionally? (Robin can offer input)
 - Tuesday at 12:30 is popular – why is that?
 - Offer specific times that E40 is available
 - Intake form to find out what the faculty/class needs (just space; more in-depth tour; etc.)
 - Also include Horizons instructors in this mix
 - Monthly tour for faculty / learning walk (CTLT?) early morning / sunrise?
 - Catarina: could CTLT model how classes could use space? Rodney – how to integrate math into nature; discussion among Catarina/Kelly/Rodney
 - Rodney and Gina – Unity Garden programming?

Cindy's show / BASD relationship / her community ed class

NEXT MEETING: Friday, Nov. 3 at 10 a.m. via Zoom

Questions:

Take aways:

Decisions made: