

East 40 Advisory Committee

26 January 2024

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

December Minutes

Participants: Kelly Allen, Alex Brands, Carol Burns, Robin Cunconan-Lahr, Rachael Gorchov, Kegan Hilaire, Josh Holloway, Holly O'Connor, Nathaniel Ramos, Bill Smith, Gina Turner, Alex Zuniga

Agenda:

- Website Updates – Updates have been added to nccceast40.org's "About" section:
 - Home for Meeting Minutes (nccceast40.org/meeting-minutes)
 - Advisory Committee Page (nccceast40.org/members)
Committee members: please check your listing and if you want a change in the way your name and/or title appears, contact Carol at info@nccceast40.org
- East 40 Classroom Update
 - Conversations with the Township
Kelly, Bill, Re:Vision, Keystone Engineering – pre-application meeting, rep's from different Township departments/committees
The way we're zoned is not compatible with classroom proposal
Township focused on existing buildings, saying they are not legal (excepting the ceramics shed) – will issue a Notice of Violation (received)
Met with third party solicitor who will be issuing an appeal – requesting an exemption for Notice, this may occur at the same time as the zoning request
Re:Vision is moving forward with construction documents

- Funding

Match is needed for funding source; had planned to use East 40's 40+ acres as match (\$1.3 million valuation). Told we can only use the value of 9 acres as match.

We have a lobbyist who is working to get the full 40 acres secured as match. If not secured, college may have to find alternative funding and/or scale back project.

Question about valuation of \$30,000 per acre: market value or for tax purposes; not sure which was used.

Can we justify that all 40 acres are used, and that they need to be unimproved for appropriate use.

Re: asking for use variance for existing structures – were not done with permits; intention is to get permits citing educational use. Robin offered to provide documentation about how her classes use/benefit from the entire acreage.

Kelly and Bill working on Plan B, should it be needed.

- Timeline

- [Revised Concept Design](#)

Kelly shared original design, which had some 'quality of life' issues. Then shared the new concept. Affirmed by rest of committee. Like how Re:Vision incorporated our original conversations and feedback. Have met with Security and Buildings/Grounds to confirm what's needed for security use, internet, etc.

- Programming

- Modules vs. Full Semester

We need to start filling the classroom when it's available. A few of us use current classroom as 'home base.' Do we want classes based at East 40 and/or module approach (or mix) – where the class would have another classroom 'home' and use East 40

sporadically? More students impacted with latter. Will discuss these concepts at February meeting.

Question about furniture in classroom/flexing the space – will storage be available to accommodate different needs? There is some in the building; other storage in out buildings. Furniture will be indoor/outdoor to extend use.

- Farm Lease

Thanks to Bill and Kegan, lease is signed for Kegan to use 3.5 acres for five-year period. Kegan will work on relationships with NCC culinary department and Sodexo, rekindle compost program (bring Moravian Academy back into mix), and bring on-campus Farm Market back.

- Lenape Conference

- Saturday, July 27, 8 am-7 pm

- College Center 220 and Laub Lounge

- Agenda

- Four sessions themed around environment: e.g. Lenape culture, language, food sovereignty.

- Funding

- Primary costs for room, meals, etc. are about \$6000; additional costs for speakers – possible grants/sponsorships

- Residencies (Rachael)

Application (call for entries) is finalized – will go live by early next week; applications due Sunday, March 10. Rachael will compile applications for this group to review at March meeting. Inviting two-three artists – one will be NCC employees and one for a visual artist. Ask committee members to help promote. Timeline will be shifted so it overlaps with fall semester (mid-July to late October). Residents will receive half of funding up front, with the rest of the funding upon completion of culminating project.

- East 40 Educational Resources

- [Revise Mission Statement](#)

Holly, Robin, Cindy and Kegan have volunteered to work on an initial draft; they will meet as a group to begin this work.

- [Place-based Learning Infographic](#) (Teton Science School)

Not everyone knows what this term means – need something concrete like this infographic. Let's plan to discuss at February meeting. Since we're building the Center for Place-Based Learning, we need to communicate what that means. We also want to emphasize that we are giving back to the community, not just focused on ourselves.

Spring Action Items

- East 40 Grant Team
Begin work on possible grants and boiler plate language – will be soliciting additional help (Holly has volunteered)
- East 40 Strategic Plan
Gina has volunteered; solicit additional volunteers to work on this.
These teams will meet separately and report back to bigger group.

Kegan asked about what to put in garden: Gina wants rhubarb; Kelly will create spreadsheet

Questions:

Take aways:

Decisions made: