

East 40 Advisory Committee

29 March 2024

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

[February Minutes](#) Participants: Kelly Allen, Catarina di Maria, Rachael Gorchov, Robin Cunconan-Lahr, Holly O'Connor, Will Rufe, Gina Turner, Cindy Vojnovic, Rodney Weems, Alex Zuniga

Agenda:

- **East 40 Classroom Update**

Budget - \$1 million from state; NCC – additional \$500,000. Cost came in from architects at \$1.9 million. Options: postponing project, pare down, fund raising? Zoning is an issue; the East 40 parcel is zoned differently than the rest of the campus, and education is not a permitted use. East 40 parcel may need to be rezoned; this will be good, to include existing structures.

- **Lenape Conference Update**

Moving along well. Date, name of conference, rooms reserved, speakers getting lined up. Budget of about \$16,000; this will be offset by registration fees, grants, support from other NCC programs, community donors.

Homecoming: The Lenape Speak

Saturday, July 27

7:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

NCC College Center

- **Coordinator Update**

Thought that position was approved and budgeted; process for approval has been changed so not posted yet. NCC admin working on it.

- **Mission Statement Update**

Team (Gina, Cindy, Holly, Robin, Alex, Josh Holloway, Kegan Hilaire) has drafted

this proposal:

The mission of the E40 is to nurture an engaging space using sustainable practices of land stewardship to explore how the natural and cultivated environment influences and supports all aspects of life.

E40 does this through:

- *Place-based learning across many areas of study*
- *Community engagement,*
- *Nurturing a place for curious minds and creative expression.*

Approved by consensus.

- Strategic Plan and Grants next?

Gina is part of college's strategic planning process – our plans should align and support those strategic pillars. Start looking at grant opportunities in the fall.

- **Spring Equinox and Kiln Firing Reflection**

Been challenging to get momentum on kiln firings; this last one prior to March 19 event went very well as far as the team we assembled and how the kiln worked. Kelly, Cindy and Dave Graham (kiln tech) visited Chester Springs to see their operation; possibility of getting their folks to build us a new one? This was our fifth seasonal celebration – gaining momentum/participation.

- **Community Education**

Kelly starting initial conversations with Audree Chase (associate dean for Community Ed) to have East 40 set up/marketing/registering our own community ed offerings. Community Ed would retain income. Lead time/marketing of going through Community Ed office is challenging. Katie Taylor starting a series of monthly organic gardening classes on Wednesday, April 3 (ncceast40.org/community-education)

- **Farm Market**

Kegan's Black Bird Farms will be primary vendor. Starting Wednesday, May 22 on the Quad; 10 am – 2 pm. Other vendors will be recruited. Kegan is also doing

a Farm Share that can be picked up at the Farm Market - with a discount if you sign up by May 1: blackbirdfarms.square.site/join-our-csa.

- **East 40 Residencies (Rachael)**

22 submissions; a lot to review. Is there a way to streamline the review process – did they meet requirements (budget, way to connect with students/college community/East 40). “East 40 should influence the work (should not be a project that can be done anywhere).” Holly, Rachael and Kelly to address application process.

Rachael: review of applications. Shared rubric. Question: does applicant Sasha Phyers-Burgess satisfy NCC staff requirement? Need to confirm. Concern about how each applicant relates/impacts East 40. Kelly and Rachael will meet to narrow down to top six applicants – rest of committee to review and rank on an online form. To conclude by end of next week.

Questions:

Take aways:

Decisions made: