

C. Public Input Summaries

Public input was a key factor in establishing the future vision for preservation and recreation in Franklin Township. The community was offered a wide variety of methods to provide their input including:

1. Public workshops
2. Stakeholder meeting
3. Random household survey
4. On-line and handout surveys available to all
5. Suggestions and comments through e-mail
6. Plan Steering Committee
7. Presentations of draft documents

This appendix provides the summaries of the public input meetings, stakeholder group interviews, and Steering Committee minutes. In addition to these, e-mails were submitted by individuals with comments and suggestions.

1. Public workshop Summary

**PUBLIC WORKSHOP SUMMARY
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY
PROJECT NO. 11029**

BY: Patrick D. Hoagland, ASLA

**BRANDSTETTER CARROLL INC.
ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS PLANNERS**

April 14, 2011

The following is a summary of the first public workshop for the project. The workshop included approximately 60 participants and was held at the Senior/community Center on the evening of Thursday, April 14, 2011. The following questions and responses were obtained in the meeting:

1. Where do you currently go and what do you do for parks and recreation activities?

- D & R Canal State Park
- Pop Warner Football at the Middle School
- Playground at Middlebush Park
- Memorial Forest
- Colonial Park
- South Boundbrook Little League
- Johnson Park for the animals
- Westin Road Park for cricket
- Senior Center
- Sabella Park in North Brunswick
- Nassau Park
- Williams Park
- Pine Grove School for cricket
- Soccer Center
- North Brunswick Park for soccer
- High School for baseball
- Spooky Brook Golf Course
- New Hope for the canal and arts
- Inman Park
- Dunham-Lebet Park for soccer
- Grassland Preserves
- Roads for biking
- Six Mile Run
- Kingston-Laurel Avenue School yard
- Rockingham
- Franklin Township Little League
- Buccleuch Park in New Brunswick for the dog park and snow boarding
- Fishing along the canal
- Boyd Park in New Brunswick
- Colonial Park for mini golf
- Tara Driving Range

- Sourland Mountain Preserve for the trails
 - Duke Island Park for concerts
2. What do you currently like about the parks and recreation opportunities in Franklin Township?
- Peace, quiet, nature
 - Being able to play ball in town
 - Animal watching
 - Convenience
 - Space for all interests
 - Community diversity
 - Scenic vistas
 - Senior Center
 - Facilities for children
 - Library for their programs
 - Historic properties
 - Neighborhood parks
 - Open space
 - Meadows Foundation programs
 - Senior programs
 - Athletic fields
 - Central location of fields
 - Volunteer organizations do a good job with the lack of facilities
 - New Jersey Audubon tours
 - Undeveloped open space
 - Preserved wooded areas
 - Bird watching
3. What is lacking within the parks and recreation system, what is missing, and what don't you like about park and recreation opportunities in Franklin Township?
- Lack of restrooms at the parks
 - Need safe access to the parks
 - Need more sports fields
 - Need a youth center
 - Lack of cohesiveness of efforts of various organizations
 - Need moveable bridges along the canal
 - Lack organized children's programs
 - Need indoor winter activities
 - Need an outdoor swimming pool
 - The high school swim team goes to Rutgers for practice and meets
 - Lack of field safety
 - Need all-purpose artificial turf field
 - Need better public access for fishing
 - Need more hunting areas
 - Need cricket fields for children
 - Need a place to ride ATV's
 - Need badminton fields and courts

Appendix C – Public Input Summaries

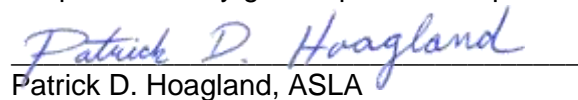
- Need soccer fields. The current fields are overused
 - Need special needs access to the facilities
 - Need more football fields
 - Lack of knowledge of the canal and it's benefits and the need for parking along the canal
 - Lack of communication for sports. Need central location and coordination
 - Need wrestling practice areas
 - Need area for training to use canoes and kayaks
 - Need transportation for seniors
 - Need a central source for historic resources
 - Need indoor sports facilities
 - There is only one senior baseball field in the community
4. Vision for the future. The workshop participants were asked to divide into small groups and to pretend that it is 10 years in the future and they are very pleased with what has happened to develop and improve the parks and recreation system in Franklin Township. What has happened in those 10 years to make this an outstanding place to live, work, and play? The groups discussed this among themselves and then wrote their suggestions on individual index cards. The groups then established priorities for each of the items on their lists. The priority of the individual groups is listed in parenthesis following each item. The following are the responses within categories which were discussed.
- Athletic fields
 - Additional soccer fields (1)
 - Synthetic turf on existing fields (1,6)
 - Outdoor athletic complex (1)
 - Outdoor playing track and field (2)
 - Cricket fields should evolve into regulation fields with quality outfield and good wicket, including dedicated field for kids (2)
 - Lights for outdoor playing fields (2a)
 - Good indoor and outdoor practice facility for cricket (3)
 - Handicap accessible athletic facilities (4)
 - Multi-sport park for cricket, soccer, rugby, etc. Cricket pitch should be a turn wicket (regulation) and the facility should be lighted and have seating (5)
 - Centralized athletic fields (3b)
 - Centralized multipurpose athletic facilities (5)
 - Multi-ground cricket facility with adequate parking and storage (4)
 - Better utilization of the land around the Middle School for athletic facilities (5)
 - Lighted fields (7)
 - Additional football fields (8)
 - Track (9)
 - Indoor recreation/community center
 - Community center for indoor events, arts, swimming, indoor sports (3a)
 - Indoor recreation facility (1)
 - Indoor centrally located self sustaining all purpose sports facility (1a)

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- Team center (2)
- Community center and utilize closed buildings such as Motorola (6)
- Multi-sport indoor facility for swimming, badminton, wrestling, dance and music, basketball, tennis, squash/racquetball (6)
- Indoor athletic complex (7)
- Book store and café with wi-fi (9)
- Wrestling facility (12)
- Facility like the one in Woodbridge (14)
- Youth center(17)
- Roller skating area (15)
- Indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities
 - Swimming multi-purpose facilities (3)
 - Indoor and outdoor pool at the High School which is open to the community (4)
 - Indoor and outdoor swimming pool (10, 8)
- Amphitheater
 - Outdoor amphitheater for concerts, plays, cultural events (8)
 - Outdoor amphitheater similar to Boyd Park in New Brunswick (9, 9)
- Facility distribution
 - Park facility distributed equally throughout the Township rather than in the high density areas (7)
 - Parks provided throughout the town (17)
- Park Improvements
 - Bathrooms and handicap access for developed recreation facilities (2)
 - Restrooms in the parks (3)
 - Handicap access to the parks (2)
 - Basic civic facilities in the parks such as restrooms, seating, parking, storage, safety, lighting (1)
- Trails
 - Improved open trails (2)
 - Pedestrian biking town wide (4)
 - Pedestrian bridge across Easton Avenue (4)
 - Trails and sidewalks for walking (3)
 - Pedestrian access and sidewalks (5)
 - Public access and programs to canal activities such as boating, fishing, trails and kayaking (7)
 - Better access to the canal (13)
- Communication and coordination
 - Better communication about recreation opportunities (3)

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- A community bulletin board for all recreation, historic, and public programs including the Township website (5)
 - Signage and a digital sign board to highlight activities (10)
 - Open space
 - Keeping open space for conservation and wild life/farmland (1)
 - Use the open space access for recreation (8)
 - Maintain open space (8)
 - Marconi Property and Museum
 - The land across from Marconi Park purchased to develop a park (1)
 - Moveable bridge to access the tow path and bring park users to the Eastern Avenue Businesses (2)
 - Making it a Memorial Park to Marconi (3)
 - The Franklin Historical Museum should include Marconi, canal history and environmental education center ()
 - Miscellaneous comments that do not have separate categories
 - An outdoor nature and environmental education center for learning (5)
 - Mall and book store in the community (10)
 - In town shuttle bus linking Township facilities for all ages (6)
 - The Township should provide maintenance for all of the fields (11)
 - Additional hunting areas (16)
 - Community gardens (6)
 - Control the developers (7)
 - A park in the Hamilton Street business area with a stage (4)
 - Segway and golf cart trails (18)
5. Following the group getting together to review all of the comments which were on the cards, the facilitators asked a separate question related to the use of the Township's Trust Fund. The Consultants identified the six potential uses for the funds and gave each person three dots to place as they wished on the chart. They were told they could place them all on one or spread them out as they wanted. The following are the ways that the people at this meeting voted:
- Develop new active and passive recreation park facilities (75 votes)
 - Improve and maintain the existing parks (25 votes)
 - Acquire open space for preservation (24 votes)
 - Preserve historic sites (19 votes)
 - Develop walking and bike trails (5 votes)
 - Preserve farm land (4 votes)
6. Following this exercise, the meeting was adjourned. It was a very active group which provided very good input into the process.


Patrick D. Hoagland, ASLA

April 25, 2011
Date

2. Stakeholder Group Summaries

**STAKEHOLDER GROUP SUMMARIES
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY
PROJECT NO. 11029**

**BY: Patrick D. Hoagland, ASLA
Wayne Bain, CPRP**

**BRANDSTETTER CARROLL INC.
ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS PLANNERS**

The following are summaries of discussions conducted with stakeholder groups on March 9-10 and March 15-16 along with discussions with various boards and commissions at other times.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Land Use and Open Space Committee

Met With: Mark Healey, Donna Vieiro, Alice Osipowitz, Ted Chase, Jim Pettit, Carl Wright, Rajiv Prasad, and Jim Vassanella

1. This group was a little different and we asked them some of the questions that would be asked of the public. The first question is - What makes Franklin Township a special place and what are the attributes of the community?
 - a. The community was rated fifth in Money Magazine and then later changed to eleventh in the United States. The article in Money Magazine noted open space, diverse population, public housing to farmland, variety.
 - b. There is great transportation with access to the train station in New Brunswick along with major highways to Interstate 287 and US One.
 - c. The values of homes have maintained.
 - d. Rural Setting.
 - e. Diverse housing.
 - f. Water around the community with the D&R Canal.
 - g. Geography.
 - h. Industrial area in the north.
 - i. Easy access to shopping.
 - j. Hotels.
 - k. Access to universities.
 - l. Good medical facilities.
 - m. Great passive recreation and trails, especially along the tow path and the six mile reservoir site.

- n. Ecotourism.
 - o. Mountain biking which has people coming from outside the community.
 - p. New microbrewery which was recently established.
 - q. The history of the community.
 - r. Canal Road is on the National Scenic Byway.
 - s. Good road biking throughout the community.
 - t. Somerset County is a great place with lots of golf and parks.
 - u. The hockey rink on World's Fair Drive called Pro-tech and also an indoor soccer facility.
2. What are some of the negative issues with the community?
- a. Not much youth sports are available.
 - b. Need winter activities, both outside and inside with programs.
 - c. Kids are less active than they used to be.
 - d. The ponds at the County Park are not clear for skating in the winter.
 - e. Need indoor facilities.
 - f. Need an aquatic center.
 - g. Cedar Hill Pool has a wait list.
 - h. Need activities in the urban area.
 - i. Upkeep and security in parks in wards is an issue.
 - j. Land by Little League fields could be developed but some of this might be wetland.
 - k. Need cricket pitches because of a large percentage of south Asian population. Currently play at Pine Grove, which is in poor shape, Consolota, and the Weston Road fields. They use portable lights.
 - l. Need indoor and outdoor tennis, which could possibly be held at the Hutchinson Memorial Forest.

Vision for the Future

- 1. School kids are involved in a lot of activities in the community.
- 2. More tennis courts.
- 3. Summer farm intern program, preserve farms, give a lot of people the opportunity to learn more about farming.
- 4. Identify and develop the Township properties that could be used for parks.
- 5. Develop a performing stage and band shell in each Ward.
- 6. Develop a sports/complex with synthetic field, lights, concession stands, softball sized baseball fields, host tournaments, and raise funds and bring people into the community.
- 7. Pop Warner needs concessions as well as soccer.

8. Avoid paying County field use fees if possible.
9. Provide land for others to develop fields in a public/private partnership.
10. Develop cricket pitches in the southern part of the Township.
11. Develop more cross country running areas with marked trails.
12. Develop more areas for canoes, boating, and fishing along the canal.
13. Develop the Marconi site with a museum and historical memorial.
14. Develop an aquatic center near the library.
15. Develop overlay zoning to allow private recreation.
16. Develop signs with symbols to identify what is in the parks.
17. More passive and active senior programs and support more non-team sports activities.
18. Provide space for open play outdoors.
19. Develop some bocce ball areas or horseshoe areas.
20. Develop a recreation center.
21. Develop some tennis walls throughout the community.
22. Make it so that the kids can get to the parks on their own.
23. Have at least ten cricket fields.

Planning Board

Mr. Hoagland had a long discussion with the Planning Board at their regular meeting and asked what some of their issues, concerns and vision for the future would be. The following items were discussed:

1. We was noted that the seniors really run this community.
2. Need to fix up the Middle School so that they can be used more for activities.
3. The Middle Schoolers and teenagers need more outside activities and there is also a need for some non-sports activities and a place to hang-out. Unorganized activities are needed.
4. Need activities for healthy citizens, better living conditions.
5. Need more walking opportunities.
6. There is a lot of unfinished business in the community that needs to be developed, such as Catalpa that was purchased to be a southern park, Middlebush Park and others.
7. They also need a program to replace their old park facilities.
8. Need a complex for sports activities with concessions so that they can host tournaments.
9. Need to repair and replace existing facilities.
10. The basketball court at Dunham Lebed is used a lot.
11. There is a bias against the northeast corner of the community in this densely populated area.

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12. There is only one park south of the old railroad tracks in DeLar Park. Need to have more parks in this part of the Township.
13. The Township has 21 historic buildings.
14. Need homes for the different sports.
15. This plan will be the recreation element of the Master Plan.
16. Need to use the Kingston Building.

Recreation Advisory Committee

**Met With: Nine members of Recreation Advisory Council
 Patrick D. Hoagland, ASLA, Brandstetter Carroll Inc.
 Wayne Bain, Brandstetter Carroll Inc.**

Each person discussed what they would like to see in the future and what some of their concerns are currently. The following are the items that were discussed:

1. Discussion of programs currently going on in Franklin Township.
2. Cricket – Currently have 66 teams in New Jersey. They only have three areas they play in Franklin Township. There are three teams within the community.
3. Steve Wright discussed the Championship Program in POP Warner. They need more fields, there is only one field used in Franklin Township
4. They do not have a home field to play; they normally play in other communities.
5. Currently have four flag teams with 30 players each and 7 tackle teams with 28-37 players each.
6. Ron Jordon is involved with basketball and baseball, the current issue is they do not have a facility for basketball and need more ball fields.
7. Bill Reese discussed the issue of getting kids off the street. There is a need for more bike lanes. Bike routes, this Township has the least and poorest facilities in New Jersey.
8. Nancy Sayer – She echoes all the statements made. She stated they are a large township, spread out and it is hard for kids to get together. The bikeways are segmented and not continuous so people can safely ride or walk. It is boring to walk on tracks that only go round and round.
9. Jim Kelly identified that Franklin Township has 1,200 plus kids in soccer. There are 92 teams in the Recreation and Travel leagues. There is a lack of soccer fields in the community. Currently use Board of Education fields and have 10 fields for games. They compete with the Board of Education after school programs. They fight among themselves to use the fields. They are the feeder programs for all the High Schools.

Other Comments:

1. An athletic complex would be an income generator for the community if it is built to host tournaments. It would also need a concession stand.
2. The past priority has been to purchase open space, it is now time for the people.

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3. It is time to invest in kids. We have a four time state diving champion and the community does not have a pool.
4. They have one lighted field in the Township; the seniors have a large softball program.
Keith Stewart – Use to work with POP Warner, in the past 33 years nothing has been added for recreation fields. The teams practice at the Middle School where the team's practice and it is basically dirt.
5. Middlebush Park is the only area in this part of town that could accommodate ball fields.

Vision:

1. Need a space for jogging and walking to maintain proper health
2. Need an indoor athletic complex.
3. Need a recreation facility for all types of programs.
4. Need a large outdoor athletic complex that would include fields for all type of sports.
5. Need more bikeways.
6. Need multi-purpose fields that could be synthetic turf.
7. Need indoor recreation center with an indoor pool.
8. Have ball fields that would be able to host tournaments and at least two fields need to have lights.
9. Need cricket fields. There are 66 teams in New Jersey and 3 in Franklin Township. There are currently 3 pitches in the Township, they need additional fields.
10. Pop Warner needs fields. The fields are currently in poor condition and there is no "home". Facilities are a lot better elsewhere where they can have a more successful program. They need a practice area for the 150 yards area. Ideally there would be 4 flag teams with 30 kids each and 7 teams with 28-37 kids in each.
11. Wrestling would like to have something like the Pal Center in South Plainfield. This is a growing sport which has had some good success lately.
12. A recreation center is needed to serve the growing Franklin area.
13. Facilities are needed in the Township for jogging, exercise, health, trails, fitness trails, scenic paths, etc.
14. Another member indicated that they need a wrestling area and skate park. Need an athletic center to help establish a sense of community and provide a place for the kids to go year round. It would also be a place for seniors to do more active activities than they can currently do in the Senior/Community Center.
15. Football is in desperate need of lights and a home field.
16. It was noted that kids will participate if the facilities are available.
17. Need to break down the barriers in this very diverse community.
18. They have a Group 4 high school in the largest size class.
19. Marlboro has great facilities and we need to do more like they have.

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20. Keep the kids occupied and off the streets.
21. Need more bike trails, bike lanes, bike routes.
22. They have linked the facilities of all the towns around them.
23. The community is very spread out.
24. The trails are too segmented and not continuous and need to be connected.
25. The teams in the Township do well.
26. The tow path is great but is difficult to get to.
27. Need a bike lane on Elizabeth Avenue.
28. Like paths in the parks.
29. Need facilities for handicap kids.
30. Need more summer programs such as a basketball league.
31. Need more programs and facilities for disabled and elderly to use.
32. Need an amphitheater.
33. Soccer currently has 1,200 kids on 92 teams in the spring plus travel teams. There is an extreme lack of fields. They currently use the schools. They use 10 at Sampson Smith School on Thursdays and Sunday for their games only. They also use the Board of Education fields. All fields are over used and there are no lights. 40% of their kids are from the Franklin Park area.
34. There is a need for multi-use fields.
35. The money is going to open space and not for the kids and they need to provide more athletic facilities.
36. There is only one lighted senior baseball league field.
37. Need space for men's hardball.
38. Senior softball league is growing.
39. Athletic fields should be a first priority and they need lots where they can develop lights.
40. Trails will provide a place to run.
41. Need a trail mile marker using good parking areas.
42. Need a track for the kids in the track program.
43. The Township has continually grown with no new facilities within the past 33 years.
44. Most activities take place on school property.
45. Need a Community Park with a variety of activities in one location.
46. Need fitness stations.
47. Need to develop a walking path around Middlebush Park.
48. Need a place for Lacrosse to play.
49. Would like to see something like Sebella Park in North Brunswick.

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50. Need Middlebush Park developed in the center of the community.
51. South Park to serve the Franklin Park area needs to be developed.
52. There are fewer parks in other communities around them.
53. There is more housing going in all the time and we need parks.
54. Middle School track needs replaced.
55. The more open space that is purchased, the less land that is available for taxes, so they need to consider this in the acquisition of open space.
56. The land at Middlebush Park was donated by the developer for park land and the residents in the area knew that it would be a park. The community has spent over 10 years talking about Middlebush Park and needs to do something.
57. There are a lot of empty warehouses in the area that could be used for some indoor type of recreation.
58. A larger complex that you could schedule tournaments where you could raise funds and lessen the impact financially on parents through concessions and tournament fees.
59. Need lighted football fields for tournaments. Should have at least two fields. Football spends \$10,000 per year for portable lighting.

Trails Advisory Committee

Present: **Mark Fortin, Chairperson**
 Pat Leonard
 John Clyde, Past Chairperson
 Wayne Bain, Brandstetter Carroll Inc.
 Patrick D. Hoagland, Brandstetter Carroll Inc.

1. There are currently 21 miles of trails on Township land, 35 miles on state land and additional trails on County land for a total of 60 miles within the Township.
2. There are 9 sites within their program, “Pathways and Trails Plan” which was developed in December, 2008, that we need to review.
3. The group was Advisory to City Council.
4. Involved in the Pathways and Trails plan that was adopted by the Planning Board.
5. Involved in Bikeways Master Plan.
6. Many of the trails identified have been completed with minimal Township funds.
7. Open space could be used for many municipal uses.
8. Franklin is lucky to have protected a large amount of open space.
9. They have two great resources, D&R Canal State Park, 6 Mile Run Area – 3,000 Acres (Developed trail system there).
10. Sixty miles of trails, (35 state, 20+ Township, 3 County).
11. Work underway with discussions with the state to develop additional trails on state owned property at the 6 Mile Reservoir site.

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12. William H. Huthinson Memorial Forest is the oldest stand of uncut forest in the State of New Jersey. Rutgers oversees the area and will allow tours, however they are very protective of the site.
13. Paved bike route on JFK Boulevard is heavily used.
14. Griggstown area has a great area for horseback riding. Area was sold to Township and the Township would not allow horseback riding for a period of time. It took several years for the Township to allow riding on designated trails. There is a connection from the Griggstown Area to the State owned property at Blackwell Mills with connecting route to the D&R Canal and back to Griggstown.
15. Trails:
 - a. Bunker Hill and Franklin Park Natural Area
 - b. Butler Road Natural Area
 - c. Griggstown
 - d. Colonial Park
 - e. 6 Mile run and D&R Canal State Park
16. Proximity to homes has been an issue with the trails.
17. 99% of the Pathways and Trails Plan has consensus, but the ones that are closer to homes are the ones that have caused some controversy.
18. Most trails are developed by committees and volunteers.
19. There are 3 miles of trail in Colonial Park, 35 miles on state property, Township has 20+ miles for a total of 60 miles in the Township.
20. The D&R Canal Tow Path has a stone path.
21. The northeastern portion of the community is underserved by connecting trails.
22. Hutchinson Forest is an older forest and New Jersey has some restrictions on it. Some of JFK is a wide paved heavily used trail along the road.
23. D&R Trail is in the East Coast Greenway and the vision would be to connect it to the Train Station in New Brunswick and Boundbrook.

Vision:

1. The big ticket item is the North/south Connector. Need a firm surface that is detached from the road.
2. Envision an East/West Connector in the northern part of the County.
3. Develop signage along the bike routes in Hillsborough Township.
4. Signs to the routes such as the Hamilton Amwell Corridor.
5. Develop trails to connect Griggstown area up to the state owned land at Blackwell Mills. There is a small link missing.
6. The state wants a pedestrian bridge at Six Mile Run across from Claremont Road.
7. Have a hard surface trail next to a natural trail.

Environmental Commission

**Met with: Arnold Vernick, Chair
Walter Andrews**

1. The group developed their first community garden last year and hope to develop another one at the Pine Grove School this year and at Naman Williams Park in the future.
2. Open space is the main attraction in the community.
3. The community is diverse in every aspect.
4. Need to keep the character of the Township.
5. The group meets two times per month.
6. One of their activities has been stream cleanups.
7. Much of the southern area already has a great deal of preserved open space.
8. The Sustainable Jersey Program was established to inspire towns to be more sustainable and there are three different levels.
9. There are about 67 communities in the state that have reached various levels of the Sustainable Jersey Program. The Township got the Bronze level last year and would like to reach a higher level.

Vision for the future

1. More open space, especially in some of the more dense areas of the Township and some of the more threatened areas along Canal Road.

Agriculture Committee

Met With: Bob Puskas

1. Mr. Puskas is on the Agriculture Committee and Open Space Committee. Their goal is the preservation of farm land. They have a target list of farms that they review annually.
2. They purchased the development rights on these lands. Some communities will buy the areas outright and resell them without the development rights.
3. They need money to acquire land which is a better deal to the taxpayers to the PDR than purchasing open space which you are responsible for and take it off the tax rolls.
4. They have an A and a B list which is divided by three sectors. One of their goals is the area around the Six Mile Reservoir Area and then south where larger tracts of farmland are currently located.
5. They try to get the State to provide the money whenever possible.
6. Farming will change in time with more vineyards being developed.
7. Would like to connect property together as much as possible in blocks.
8. They have a five acres minimum or more to purchase, but 20 acres is minimum ideally.
9. Mark Healey and John Loos have the target list of areas.

10. The County has a 20-25 acre minimum size property that they will purchase.

11. Some of the trails proposals that have been proposed are not realistic.

Vision for the Future:

1. Purchase 90% of the targeted farms

Open Space Advisory Committee Chair

Met with: Randy Jones

1. Mr. Jones has been on the Open Space Advisory Committee for nine years.
2. The open space tax is currently \$.05 per \$100 of evaluation.
3. This group is an advisory committee to Council and consists of 10 members with five being from other commissions including the Historic Commission, Planning Board, Recreation Advisory Committee, Trails Advisory Committee, and Council Liaison. The additional five are citizens.
4. There is \$18 - \$19 M in funding currently in the Trust Fund.
5. The last 11 years the primary focus was to purchase land.
6. The goal was to preserve a third of the Township and currently there is 34% preserved. Some is by others such as the County and the State.
7. They would like to keep about \$3-\$4 M in reserve for acquisition of land.
8. Question is how can it be used in the future? Can we purchase other assets with the funds?
9. The Committee has maintained its independence.
10. They would like to spend the funds on greenways, active recreation, passive recreation and large farms of 130 acres plus.
11. There is organized resistance in many locations for active recreation.
12. They have set aside \$1.4 M for the development of Middlebush Park. We have talked about putting active recreation in Middlebush Park for 10-12 years and nothing has happened.
13. Trails have become a hot topic lately with some residents and farm owners not wanting trails across their property and near their homes.
14. This group established a Trails Advisory Committee to assist them.
15. Need to look at a lot near the High School for their development.
16. Mr. Jones is also on the County Open Space Committee.
17. It is possible that South Boundbrook could get some of the County open space funds for improvements to some of the park facilities which would also help the Township. The County has wanted some of the smaller municipalities to get \$1 M from the County funds.
18. New land may be required for active recreation. Need to look at the cost of the land as well.

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19. There are some restrictions on land along the D&R Canal which need to be considered.
20. Historic preservation is a big question as to how much it would cost to preserve these historic properties.
21. Issue of if the money could be used for an indoor recreation center and a pool. The question is - Can we use the funds to construct a recreation center and aquatic complex? They think it should be approved. They see nothing in the resolution that would not allow dollars to be used for recreation as well as land purchase.
22. Need indoor recreation since there is no YMCA or Boy's and Girl's Club in the area. They need year round activities for youth.
23. Need to get more recreation land in the fourth ward and in the northeast portion of the Township. It is more diverse in this area of the community and the blocks are smaller, population is dense.
24. At the Pop Warner area need to add a pool to serve the community.

Vision for the Future

1. Develop more greenways and trails throughout the community.
2. For this study to identify what and how the dollars can be used.
3. Develop Middlebush Park as funded.
4. Provide services in the 4th Ward. Facilities and programs are non-existent.
5. Develop an aquatic center by possibly partnering with the County.

Open Space Advisory Committee

By: Patrick Hoagland

Discussion items:

1. Have no field lights or artificial turf fields now.
2. Neighboring towns have more recreation facilities than Franklin.
3. Fields are destroyed by overuse.
4. Active park land is more expensive to develop and maintain.
5. Purchase of Development Rights is most efficient way to gain open space.

Vision for the Future as identified by individuals on the Committee::

1. Establish a percentage of the Trust Fund for land acquisition
2. Focus on land purchase. Look at Wards 2, 4 and 5 for small parcels.
3. Build less houses
4. Foster public-private partnerships such as a YMCA.
5. Partner with Board of Education
6. Have no lighted or artificial turf fields now. Need some.
7. Sports fields and cricket pitches needed.
8. Examine land the Township owns that is available for recreation.
9. Get development funds from developers.
10. Ideally do not lose farm land to develop parks.
11. Develop complexes of ball fields. More efficient and more benefits.
12. Look at the impact on the tax base when developing parks.

13. Take advantage of Colonial Park. Partner with Somerset County Park Commission.
14. Complete the High School athletic complex.
15. Balance the needs of the Township residents.
16. Follow the Colorado Open Space example.
17. Provide better and more attractive signage at parks. Coordinate graphics and wayfinding signage. Need attractive logo.
18. Develop the north-south and east-west trails and connections to Canal Tow Path.
19. Use County funds for South Boundbrook improvements.
20. Involve the community in the design process.
21. Develop community gardens.
22. Teach history on historic sites and farms.
23. Make better use of the Environmental Center.
24. Need a pot of funds for land purchases.
25. Develop Middlebush Park first. Catalpa second.
26. Develop a pedestrian bridge to the tow path at the Marconi site.

Historic Preservation Advisory Committee

Met With: **Barbara Lawrence**
 Jean Ambrose
 Barbara Tenbroeke
 Nancy Hohnstine
 Tom Cale

By: **Wayne Bain, Brandstetter Carroll Inc.**

1. This committee is a review board established by Township Council in the mid 80's.
2. It is their responsibility is to review various properties prior to going to the Township Council and recommend or disapprove.
3. There are nine regular members.
4. Their main charge is historic resources.
5. They interface with the Open Space Advisory Committee as well as many other groups.
6. They recommended the Gunther house property.
7. There is a need in the southern part of the Township.
8. The State of New Jersey is developing a new Strategic Plan for Agricultural Farmsteads.
9. The mission for the Sturgart Homestead is the focus on Agricultural Education. The farm has been farmed since 1740.

Vision for the future

1. To utilize property behind Franklin High School for active recreation.
2. Some portions of historic lands could be used for active recreation of developed property.
3. As the Township continues to purchase property, they should be aware that historic features may be part of the purchase and easement could be established to protect the property.

4. We do not want to lose historic sites, however funds must be made available to maintain the sites.
5. Encourage farmers to continue farming.
6. Develop a way to recognize mid century homes without getting into the issue of making them historic, this makes them difficult for people to own them.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

School Board Members

**Met With: Ed Seto, Superintendent
 Eva Nagy, School Board President
 Richard Seamon, School Board**

1. Kimberly Kenny is the Athletic Director of the High School and would be a good person to talk to about some of their facility uses.
2. A soccer group helps out with maintenance on some of the fields.
3. Their number one goal is to finish their stadium. They need home bleachers, press box, fencing, concession stand, team rooms, storage, and other facilities to finish this complex. They currently have to bus students to the Middle School for practices and games. It is a shame that they have an artificial turf field but cannot use it for football. Soccer and field hockey currently do use the field because the state requirements are not as strong.
4. They would like for the Township to pay for an artificial turf field at the Middle School along with bleachers and press box to help with Pop Warner and other activities at this site.
5. The number two priority would be developing Middlebush Park as designed.
6. They recommend that we look at their security and fee policy from the web site which will provide background on what their restrictions are.
7. All of their school programs have been cut.
8. The community needs a youth center.
9. It was noted that if schools become crowded, they may have to take some space back at the Middle School.
10. Need a swimming pool for the swimming and diving team. Ideally it would be near the high school. Currently they are using the pool at Rutgers and pay for use of the facility and for the bussing of the students. Their competitors have their own pools.
11. It was noted that 37% of the students are on the free lunch program and they think that there are actually a lot more that are at poverty level.
12. They may have to cut use of the gyms in the future due to budget cuts.
13. Ice hockey team also needs time on the ice rink.
14. If they have to cut sports, they will lose the Middle School programs, which will put more participants in the community's athletic programs.

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15. They need a good feeder program, especially for basketball, tennis, and wrestling.
16. Need a youth center in the community.
17. They would be willing to put facilities on their site if there is land available.
18. They do not want lights at the Middle School and increased traffic in that area because they do not want to have to light and control the walkways all the way around the building to the fields. The stadium is located behind the school and access could be dangerous and the School Board does not want to be responsible.

Kingston Village Advisory Committee

**Met with: Ann Zeaman
 Robert vonZumbusch**

1. Kingston Village is part of four municipalities. Mostly located in South Brunswick and Franklin with portions also in Princeton and Plainsboro.
2. The Kingston Initiative is a joint Mayor's task force to establish this as a Village.
3. HCS/CES Historic Cultural Site/Cultural Environmental Site Analysis was performed for this area.
4. The area has since had a Village Center designation from the state since 2001.
5. Traffic is a concern in the community.
6. Greenbelts around the community is also a highly desired element.
7. The Kings Highway Historic District is included in this area.
8. DOT owns land which there has been discussion that it may be transferred to DEP Natural Lands Trust, but this has taken a long time.
9. There is a playground located at the former school site. This school building is on the National Register and they want it to remain but it needs a lot of improvements, especially the primary need is for a new roof. The Township owns this facility.
10. It is noted that Public Works does not like this building because it is very far from the base of operations and it is beyond some of their expertise for development and maintenance.
11. Ken Daly, the former Township Manager, worked closely with the community with the building.
12. The Fire Marshall closed the building due to leak damage from the faulty fire alarm system. It also needs insulation.
13. There are about 2,000 people in the area, with most in South Brunswick and about 300 in Franklin Township.
14. It was noted that the Traprock Quarry is in the area and it could potentially be a park in the future.
15. There have been some plans for a large office complex in the area of Traprock, but this group feels it would be better to be used as a reservoir and a park.

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16. This is the area that is the Crossroads of the American Revolution in New Jersey and part of the Rockingham and Kingston historic sites.
17. The Kingston Historic Society and Kingston Greenway Association are spin-off groups from this Advisory Committee. There is also an active group called the Friends of Princeton Nursery.
18. The Kingston access to the D&R Canal is one of the most used access areas.

Vision for the Future

1. Non-profit agencies would make use of the school building for meeting space, community organization and file storage space.
2. Establish funds for improvements for the building to stabilize it with a new roof which costs about \$120,000. There has been a separate estimate which was over \$1 M which included a boiler replacement and a lot of other improvements.
3. The development of a satellite library in the school where it would not necessarily have books but would have computers and a place to pick up books that were ordered.
4. A green belt is completed which would extend into South Brunswick and the Princeton Nursery site.
5. Quality of life is improved.
6. Sidewalks to get to the open space are installed.
7. Would like the Hasty Acres Farm preserved.
8. Provide walking access to the Kingston Mall area on Route 27

Chamber of Commerce at the Marconi Foundation

**Met with: Frank Restta, Chamber of Commerce
Harry Webber, Marconi Foundation
Ellie Webber Projects Manager for the Chamber of Commerce**

1. Need to review the ecotourism plan in which John Loos was involved and try to identify some of the sites.
2. There is a site across from the Marconi Park land along Easton Boulevard which was used to develop Marconi Park. This is between the Somerset Diner and McDonalds.
3. This group was partly responsible for the improvements of Marconi Park, benches, birdhouses, gazebo, butterfly garden, (which is an Eagle Scout project) and other improvements.
4. D&R is going to develop a bridge somewhere in the vicinity of the site to provide access to the tow path.
5. Original cable was laid from this site to New Brunswick for Marconi's first transcontinental transmission. It is believed that this cable is still in place and there are some foundations in place along the canal.
6. There has not been much money spent for open space in this part of the Township.
7. The site currently has no place to park cars and provide access to the canal.

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8. It is about five miles to other accesses across the canal to the tow path.
9. The Chamber of Commerce endorses this plan and so does D&R Canal.
10. The Township currently maintains the grass in the park which was installed on donated land.
11. The antenna bases are still in place and about a mile of cable for the radio transmissions.

Vision for the Future

1. Obtain the land for the development of the Marconi Park and eventually a Marconi Museum at this site. Initial development would include using the existing driveway across the property to establish parking, clean up the area and have the D&R Canal develop the bridge for access to the tow path. A longer term vision would be to develop a museum and park at the site.

Meadows Foundation

**Met with: Christine Retz, President
Mark Else**

1. The Meadows Foundation has a 12 member board and is responsible for managing some of the historic properties within the Township. These include the Van Wickle House, the Wyckoff Garrettson House, and others.
2. They run some programs on these sites such as a pumpkin patch, Civil War Living History, Bunny Jamboree, and Colonial Days on the second week in October. The land is leased from the Township for this organization. They currently operate five historic houses with 99 members (3 years ago they had 300).
3. They provide two programs each month in the house so people can see and understand the period costumes and hear the history of the homes. Two of the houses were bought prior to 1730.
4. Three Farms are on the Six Mile Run Reservoir area and there are two houses that are built before 1730.
5. One of their frustrations is getting the public into the houses and knowing that they are available.
6. The County has spent \$1 M for the improvements. Many are on the Historic New Jersey Trust.
7. They do not have any staff. They use volunteers for their programming.
8. Five of the residences have caretakers on site that they pay \$75 per month and caretakers pay market rates for rent. The Wyckoff Garrettson House is about 95% complete with restoration on the outside. It still needs a kitchen.
9. The Hageman Farm needs about \$500,000 to restore the barn, it needs restrooms. They can obtain one day certificates of occupancy with portable toilets but need permanent restrooms.
10. They write a lot of their own grant applications.
11. They cannot get young people interested in their organization.

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12. All rental monies go back to the Foundation and they are used for other improvements and operations costs.
13. The Van Wickle House is the most used of their sites.
14. Tulip Wood has no handicap accessible restrooms.
15. They need a kitchen in the Van Liew-Suydam House which is one of their top priorities. The Wyckoff House needs heat and air conditioning.
16. The Franklin House is structurally very bad.
17. Mr. Else serves as the Dosen, which is a host at each of the sites when they have them open to the public. They need more people that can be involved in this process.
18. Development of historic structures report costs about \$50,000 - \$100,000 to accomplish.

Vision for the Future

1. Their major need is funding.
2. The development of tourism by visiting the historic sites and see the volunteers in period clothing.
3. Many of the houses are unfurnished. Need funds for appropriate furniture.
4. Development of restrooms in the Hageman Farm Barns.
5. Need a bridge to the restrooms, cost \$150,000.
6. Restrooms in the basement of the Hageman House which will cost about \$400,000.
7. Kitchen developed in the Van Liew-Suydam House.

Redevelopment Agency

Met with: Mike Gianotto, Redevelopment Agency Chair

1. Mr. Gianotto was on the Planning Board, Board of Education, Marconi Foundation, United Nations Executive Director, NGO. He feels that there should be a better use of 10,000 acres in the center of the Township that could be used for economic development in the community. Parks are important but not at this time.
2. Commercial development is needed on 27 near Naamen William Park and from Churchill to the north. This is about a 3 block area.
3. Mr. Gianotto uses Colonial Park daily to walk his dog.
4. The Cleary property is contaminated.
5. He feels the Township should stop buying open space and taking it off the tax rolls.
6. JFK was to be a four lane road to 27 and it should be connected all the way over. That would open some of this area for development.
7. He noted that some of the old railroad area along 514 from Millstone to New Brunswick could be developed as a park or trailhead area.
8. Develop trails in the Hutchinson Forest.
9. Open up some of the site at the Blackwell Mills Road.

Vision for the Future

1. Have corporate donations for land and park development.

Hamilton Street Business District

**Met with: Patrick Gianaotto
Efren Dato
Vinnie Pecce
Mary Smith, Chamber of Commerce**

1. A streetscape design has been accomplished in the Hamilton Street Business District with portions that have been developed.
2. The group holds three festivals a year including a car show, costume parade, and a Diversity Festival. They take the United States Main Street Center Four Point Approach to Economic Revitalization.
3. They want an attraction somewhere within the district. This is a welcome district from the Rutgers area into Franklin Township.
4. This area has been neglected by the Open Space Trust and there has not been much land purchased in wards four and five.
5. They have completed five blocks so far on the streetscape.
6. This is the first improvement district in the town.
7. The district is 1.5 miles long and has 170 businesses.
8. The organization has been formed through an assessment tax. So far they have spent \$1 million on streetscape and facades which has come from other sources.
9. Mr. Dato is the Executive Director of the improvement district and can be reached at 732-602 1741. His office is at 604 Hamilton Street.

Vision for the future

1. To develop a park with an attraction in the center of their district. This would typically include a stage or pavilion for activities which they could host within their district.
2. An information kiosk and restrooms should also be developed as part of this park improvement.
3. Naman Williams Park need more parking during events.
4. Need cricket fields.
5. Need golf carts and bikes to be allowed to run through the community.
6. Need more bike routes on some of the side streets to provide better access into Hamilton Street District.
7. Need a lot more hunting on open space as deer has become an issue.
8. Historic houses need restrooms.
9. Tulipwood is in their district.

ATHLETIC ORGANIZATIONS

Adult Softball Group

Met with: Tony Buonaguro

1. Mr. Buonaguro started the senior softball program. They are on their fifth season and they have 80-100 participants. Started in some of the adult communities of Somerset Run. The recreation department publicized the program and signs up the activity.
2. There are currently 4 teams and they want to grow to 6.
3. Games are held at Inman Park and the lower field at Williams Park, any Quail Brook Field which is a County park. They used to play at Consovoy Park but this is dangerous due to a sewer grate in the outfield.
4. They also played at the Middle School field in the past.
5. Their group starts in mid April and ends around July 4.
6. Seniors use the Franklin Tennis Courts for Seniors.
7. They have an issue with the use of the County fields because they close too often due to rain when there really is hardly any rain at all.
8. If they go to 6 teams, they will run out of fields very quickly.
9. The County permits are expensive.
10. They play 18-21 games on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday with makeup games on Monday.
11. They also have a fall league that has two teams that play in Inman Park in September and October. The cooler weather is ideal for some of the older gentlemen that play.
12. The field at Quail Brook are 60' bases and a good field but 65' would be ideal.
13. Hillcrest School - The schools maintain and is okay.
14. Inman Park was dangerous but now is much better with recent improvements.
15. Consovoy has the adult field with the sewer in the outfield which is dangerous.
16. They play a modified fast pitch.
17. 75% of their participants live or work in Franklin.
18. Entry fee is \$500 per team, it was \$300.

Vision for the future

1. An 8 team league with more fields.
2. Lights on at least one field would be ideal so that they could have two games per night instead of just one.
3. A park like Thompson Park in Middletown.
4. Make better use of the high school gyms before developing a recreation center.

Hershey Track and Field

Met with: John Allen

1. Mr. Allen has been coaching for 19 years and been involved with the program for 30 years. He coaches the Hershey Track and Field Program as well as the USA Track and Field. They recently took fourth place in the Nation.
2. They had used the track at the Middle School which is a rubberized track but it is in poor condition. Currently they are looking at other sites to use for their practices and meets.
3. There are 75-100 kids in the program and there was up to 200. 95% of those are from Franklin. Ages for the Hershey Track and Field Program are from 8-14 and for the USA Track and Field are from 8-19.
4. They are trying to find a location to host district and state meets. Currently they are practicing at Rutgers and paying \$110 per hour.
5. They cannot use the high school track due to the fact that the facility is not complete. It does not have home side bleachers or restrooms. The high school does not allow others to use the track as well.
6. Hershey pays for the travel for the kids to go to their meets.
7. They coordinate Hershey Track and Field with the Township.

Vision for the Future

1. Develop an indoor facility with an 8 lane track like the John Bennet Center in Toms River.
2. Middle and high school facilities are completed and approved and are available for a track and field program.
3. The kids keep active in the community.
4. Light the Middle School field and track, which will also help the practice at the football field.

Franklin Little League

Met With: Chris Pallay

1. The group will light 1-2 fields and hopefully more at the Little League Complex with money they will be obtaining from the Township.
2. So far they do not get any money from the Township for their property and they are on a 10 year land lease at \$1 per year.
3. The group started in 1953 and used to be at Pine Grove School. In the 60's they moved to Dekalb Street. Currently there are five fields that serve children aged 4-16 of the following groups:
 - a. Age 4-6 T-ball, 11 teams
 - b. Age 6-9 Coaches Pitch, 12 teams
 - c. Age 9-11 Minor League, 11 teams
 - d. Age 10-12 8 year olds Major, 60/90 8 teams

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- e. Age 13-14 Juniors, 60/90 bases, 6 teams
- f. Age 13-16 Senior League, 60/90 fields, 5 teams
- 4. There are 600 kids in the program and it has been pretty constant with +/- 40 kids from that number.
- 5. They use one large field at Sampson Smith School along with Dunham-Lebed Park, Castleton Park, Inman Park, and Consovoy Park for their practices.
- 6. They have games every day at their complex.
- 7. The spring baseball starts in April and goes until the end of June. There is also a summer classic and fall ball which is September through early November which has 80-180 kids and growing.
- 8. They have team sponsors.
- 9. The volunteers and staff landscape and maintain the fields six days per week.

Vision for the Future

- 1. Need to be build a facility where they can host tournaments with lights and a new snack bar/concession stand.
- 2. Need a 50/70 field for 11-12 year olds. This is a new program through Little League.
- 3. The biggest problem is practice fields.
- 4. They need to have two 60/90 fields with 300' fences and two 55/70 fields with 230' fences, two small practice fields in a larger park with other sports.
- 5. The Township has not done much for youth sports in the last several years.
- 6. They would like to double the size of their participation.

Somerset South Boundbrook Little League

Met With: Curt Adam, curtA88@comcast.net, Cell – 732-690-8327

- 1. History - Program began in 1958 and included all of Somerset. In 1971 the league split in order to have two Little League teams.
- 2. South Boundbrook Little League is in a remote corner of town bordered by South Boundbrook and Franklin off of Elizabeth Avenue.
- 3. They currently lease the land from the Township, however the Township does not provide funds or maintenance of the fields.
- 4. The fields are maintained and operated by the organization with volunteers. A community person who has a landscaping business helps the program a great deal.
- 5. The program is for ages 4-16 and is primarily co-ed until the age of 12-16.
- 6. They expect 200 participants in 2011. The numbers are down due to the economy and the location.
- 7. Fees are \$85-\$100, additional funding is through team sponsors, sign sponsors, tournaments (minimal). They also seek grants from the YES Network and Wells Fargo. American Standard does repairs to the restroom facilities.

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8. Fields are in good shape, they have an insurance policy for grass damage. They have a two story block building 30+ years old that the Little League organization built. It has no heat or restrooms. They primarily use port-o-lets.
9. They use South Boundbrook Elementary School for winter clinics.
10. Relationship with Township's Recreation and Police Department who keeps an eye on the fields to reduce vandalism is good.
11. Could have a closer relationship with the Town Council.

Vision for the Future

1. To develop a Challenger League with Morristown/Tom River Little League and Bloomfield Little League.
2. To develop a girls softball team with the South Boundbrook Recreation Department.
3. Lease the Township owned land that is on both sides of the current property they utilize. This land would allow them to develop a Challenger Field, and a new small field that would enhance the program.
4. Installation of a new pre fab building with restrooms and snack facilities.
5. Development of a new synthetic turf field.

Franklin Township Soccer

Present: **Jim Kelly**
 Scott Ludwigsen
 Wayne Bain, Brandstetter Carroll Inc.

1. We would like to have a better relationship with the Township.
2. Franklin Township Soccer Club provides a fun, nurturing, and educational soccer experience for pre-K through 12th grade children in Franklin Township.
3. Registration fee is \$76, 2nd child \$40, and \$34 for each additional child from the same family.
4. The fee includes a team uniform (shorts, jersey and socks) and a refundable work bond the parents must pay.
5. The Franklin Township Soccer Club (FTSC) was formed 30 years ago with the purposes as stated in its charter to:
 - a. Encourage the interest of youth in soccer by establishing a youth soccer club.
 - b. Aid in the development of the physical and mental well being of the youth of the community.
 - c. Provide supervised activities and encourage participation in a program designed to teach good sportsmanship and encourage physical fitness by means of an organized team sport.
 - d. Provide the participants the opportunity of having fun through the game of soccer.
6. FTSC offers both non-traveling and travel leagues for boys and girls from ages Pre-K to High School with fall and spring seasons. The typical youth enrollment for each season is

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approximately 1,000 children. Our Franklin Township (there are three others in New Jersey) is located in Somerset County, New Jersey.

7. The club is an independent, non-profit organization run entirely by parent volunteers. The non-travel league receives no direct outside support. The program is wholly funded by registration fees, concession stand sales, and our parent volunteers for its continued existence. Indirect support is graciously contributed to the club by the Franklin Township Board of Education in the form of facilities usage and field maintenance (Sampson G. Smith school for game fields and (other schools for practice sites) and by the Franklin Township Municipal Government in the form of space provided at the Public Library and Community/Senior Center for registration forms distribution and for field maintenance and facilities usage (Township parks for practice sites).
8. Information regarding the Travel League can be found at <http://www.franklinsoccer.com/travel>
9. Membership dues for one is \$75, two - \$40, 3 - \$35. Travel fee is \$250 which pays for professional trainers, uniforms and tournaments. The Township does not provide any financial assistance to the program.

Non-Travel League

1. The goal of the Franklin Township Soccer Team is to provide our children with an opportunity to increase knowledge and appreciation of soccer through the development of skills, in an environment that encourages enjoyment over competitive success. All children in grades pre-K-12 are eligible to play and township residency is not required.
2. Team League games and Nippers clinics are held during the fall and spring seasons on Saturday mornings and early afternoons at Sampson G. Smith Middle School. 90 teams play on limited space.
3. The fall season usually runs from early September to mid-November and the spring season typically runs from late March or early April until Mid-June. Typically, no games or clinics will be scheduled on major holidays.
4. The club is also proud of its youth referee program which teaches interested children the rules of the game of soccer and allows them to referee games. This provides good experience in making and keeping commitments (showing up on time with the proper equipment), building confidence, dealing with adult coaches and assisting younger soccer players. The referees are paid so for many of these youth this is their first paying "job".

Travel League

1. The Club offers a youth travel soccer program designed to play soccer at a competitive level for boys and girls ages 7-18.
2. Franklin Township Soccer Club (FTSC) is affiliated with the Mid-New Jersey Youth Soccer Association (MNJYSA), which has over 80 clubs, 900 teams and more than 12,000 players. The soccer game is played according to the FIFA Laws. Franklin Township games and tournaments are played within the State of New Jersey.
3. Franklin township Soccer Club offers:
 - a. Professional trainers
 - b. Licensed coaches

- c. A competitive program
- d. Commitment to individual development
- e. A fun and highly competitive environment

FTSC Financial Hardship Policy

1. The Franklin Township Soccer Club has a long standing commitment of ensuring that children within the township and surrounding communities who want to play soccer not be prevented from doing so by financial hardship.
2. The club also offers several scholarships each year to college bound seniors.

List of Facilities Used in Township

1. Sampson G. Smith School
 - a. Ten fields that are used only on Saturday and Sundays for games. Games take place on Saturday from 9-4 and on Sunday from 1-5 and accommodate 2,000 kids.
 - b. Challenge posed in that the property is maintained by both the Board of Education and the Township which do not act together in maintaining the condition of the property. There is no rotation of the fields possible. There are only three permanent goals, line other seven with portable goals.
 - c. No practices are held here during the week in order to preserve the condition of the fields.
 - d. Franklin Township Soccer Club on a seasonal basis provides in excess of 150 man hours to maintain the fields and on an annual basis spends over \$1,500 on topsoil, seed, and fertilizer.
 - e. All goals and nets have been donated to the Township by FTSC.
 - f. Parking is limited and the Board of Education can have an event and soccer will have to reschedule.
2. Middlebush Park
 - a. Five make shift fields of various sizes have been set up within the park.
 - b. Primary field used in the Township to hold practices. As many as 200 children and their families use the fields for practices on a daily basis.
 - c. Used seven days out of the week from March through November.
 - d. Travel uses the senior field here to hold games.
 - e. Because of conflicts with field use at Sampson G. Smith and the lack of available parking space, the Nippers program holds their instructional sessions here from 10 AM -12PM during the Spring and Fall seasons. Over 150 children participate in this program.
 - f. FTSC has provided all of the goals located in the park as well as providing over 200 hours of labor and spent in excess of \$6,000 on topsoil, seed, and fertilizer to maintain the park.

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- g. Fields are in need of repair as there are multiple bare spots and holes that need to be filled.
 - h. One Port-A-John provided by the township. No other facilities provided.
3. Dunham - Lebed Park
- a. One junior sized field used for practices.
 - b. Goals are in a state of disrepair and need to be replaced.
 - c. Field is in poor condition and needs to be seeded and fertilized.
 - d. Because of the lack of fields within the township, multiple clubs are trying to use the field. One club has gone to the extent of locking the goals to prevent others from using the field.
 - e. Because the field butts up against the neighbor's property, balls often travel onto the neighbor's property.
 - f. No facilities available.
4. Inman Park
- a. One non-regulation sized field used for practices.
 - b. The cross slope on the field is less than ideal.
 - c. Field is in a total state of disrepair and needs to be graded, seeded and fertilized.
 - d. Safety issue with concrete sticking up from the ground on the goals reported to the township.
 - e. Restroom facilities at the park are kept locked.
5. Franklin Park School
- a. One full sized field used for practices.
 - b. Field needs to be seeded and fertilized.
6. Board of Education Administrative Building
- a. One non-regulation sized field used for practices.
 - b. Safety fencing needs to be placed around field to prevent balls and children from going into the street.
 - c. Goals need to be replaced.
 - d. Field needs to be seeded and fertilized.
7. Saint Matthias School
- a. One full sized field and access to grass field.
 - b. Stipend paid to church to allow access to fields.
 - c. Fields cannot be used when there are church services, on religious holidays or when the church holds its carnival for 14 days in May.

Note: Franklin Township Soccer Club provides the paint and man hours needed to line all the fields used within the township. FTSC has also donated the nets for goals at Sampson G. Smith

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School, Franklin Park School, Board of Education Building, Inman Park, Dunham - Lebed Park. FTSC has lastly provided and maintains the goals at the above listed fields.

Vision:

1. Complete Middlebush Park.
2. Develop a park on the south side of town.
3. Need a dedicated program and funds to maintain all recreation facilities and fields properly.
4. Need more practice space with parking
5. Develop a turf field at Middlebush.
6. Need adult softball fields.

Franklin Township POP Warner

Present: Lewis Hurd, POP Warner

Wayne Bain, Brandstetter Carroll Inc.

1. Program started in 1973. 2010 they had 300 kids ages 5-14 years old. In 2011, they expect 350, 290 players, 60 cheerleaders.
2. The elimination of sports programs in the schools will expand this program.
3. They have 8 Board Members and 40 coaches.
4. They currently practice at the Middle School. The field is in poor shape and becomes a dust bowl. They practice after the High School. There are no lights on the game field.
5. The game field is average. The High School, Middle School, and youth teams play on the same field.
6. The program is funded as follows:
 - a. 85/90% registration players \$110, cheerleaders \$110, flag (5-7) is \$80. Parents pay \$100 bond and work off with hours in concession stand and get \$100 bond back.
 - b. Also get funds with sponsorships and concessions.
7. Teams:
 - a. 4 Flag Teams
 - b. 2 Mighty Mite Teams
 - c. 2 Jr Pee Wee
 - d. 2 Pee Wee
 - e. 1 Sr Midget
 - f. 1 Midget
8. A major issue is the cost of the program due to expenses of game day referees, police, school maintenance, food for concessions and snacks for players.
9. All games played on Sunday.

10. The relationship with the schools is excellent.
11. Currently, they do not have a relationship with Franklin Park and Recreation.

Vision:

1. Need better facilities, need to upgrade current fields and create space for more fields with lights.
2. Need all purpose synthetic field.
3. Need some type of subsidy to help program, especially scholarship kids, currently have 30-40% of participants need support.
4. Would like to see a year round program to help kids who do not have other activities/programs.
5. Need a recreation center to help youth and teens. This would help keep kids from gangs and other mischief.

FTWC (Franklin Township Wrestling Club)

Present: Pat Balestrieri, FTWC
Rick Black, FTWC
Wayne Bain, Brandstetter Carroll Inc.

1. FTWC has existed for over 30+ years. (started by the late Sam Hooper) At that time it was a part of the Recreation Department.
2. When the Recreation Department ran the program, they provided uniforms, knee pads, and headgear.
3. Current head coach is Wes McGee.
4. Club has grown to 50+ wrestlers in grades K-6.
5. Two teams - Raritan Valley (20 players) and Central Jersey (30 players).
6. Raritan Valley is a developmental league and plays on Saturday, everyone wrestles.
7. Central Jersey is a competitive league.
8. The program is self funded; they fall under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Department, who provides insurance.
9. Fees charged:
 - a. \$75 for 1st child
 - b. \$50 for 2nd child
 - c. \$100 bond from parents who work it off through volunteering.
 - d. Golf outing (5 yrs) raises funds for the program.
 - e. Fees pay for sweats, uniforms, trophies, head gear and shoes for those who cannot pay.
10. Wrestled in six different schools over the past 10 years, they wrestle in the high school cafeteria. Their program has a low priority and can be bumped any time.

Appendix C – Public Input Summaries

11. Currently wrestle in High School wrestling room and cafeteria.
12. It is a feeder program to the High School. High School coach does not charge for the use of the facilities.
13. Tournaments are held in the Middle School gym.
14. They do not have a facility to call home.
15. They have no opportunity to have tournaments to make additional money.
16. Many of the youth in the program receive medals in tournaments.
17. Past two years Franklin Township High School has won the County and District Championship.

Concerns:

1. Limited growth due to available facilities.
2. Program is seasonal and would like to make it a year round program.

Cricket

Present: **Bharat Patel**
 Anil Takkallapalli
 Pradeep Vedala
 Wayne Bain, Brandstetter Carroll Inc.

1. Current teams playing cricket are the Millennium League, 32 teams with 20 players each, Cricket League of New Jersey, 48 teams with 20 players each, New Jersey Sonba League, 66 teams with 20 players each (this league uses a softer ball).
2. Fields are 65 yards in diameter/radius.
3. Pitcher mat is made of jute.
4. There are only 50% of the cricket players that come from Franklin Township.
5. Cricket is more universal with players who come from other communities.
6. It takes 11 people 45 minutes to prepare the field for play.
7. There is not any maintenance on the pitches.
8. Every year there are 10 new teams.

Vision:

1. To have a dedicated lighted field for Saturday and Sundays.
2. Install a synthetic field and it could be used by other sports.
3. Develop a field on school property.
4. Potential location for cricket field is Caltapa and Dunham properties.
5. The community needs a multipurpose recreation facility.

USER GROUP INTERVIEWS

Senior Citizens Group

**Met With: Sue Krenpasky, Franklin Park Seniors, Second Vice President
Jean Doyle, Franklin Township Seniors Club
Irene CaLafiore, Franklin Park, President
Dale Waltz, Parkside Seniors President
Beverly Greene, Parkside Seniors Vice President**

1. Parkside has 60 senior members, they meet once a week at the Senior Center, take trips, and host guest speakers.
2. Franklin Township Seniors has 400 members. They meet once a week, take trips, have monthly entertainment programs, luncheon; dances, and average 200 people per week.
3. Franklin Park has 200 members; they meet once a week with an average attendance of 100. They have in-house lunches, picnics, trips, and guest speakers.
4. The senior groups have received funding from the Township between \$3,000 and \$10,000 based upon size of the group.
5. Funding ended for the groups in 2010. The funds were primarily used to subsidize trips and large events.
6. The groups now need to raise funds to help with the subsidy.
7. Some seniors are transported to the center by vans and the Township covered the cost of the bus drivers. Seniors now have to pay the CDL bus drivers.
8. Seniors are proud of two of these senior groups that provide entertainment throughout the country. The Highsteppers and the Swinging Singing Seniors.
9. They use the swimming pool at the Quality Inn Motel.

Vision for the Future

1. They need funding for buses to transport seniors to and from programs.
2. The community needs a family aquatic facility.
3. The community needs a recreation center to include areas for teens, seniors, adults, indoor walking track, indoor pool and fitness center.

Special Needs

**Met with: Percy Sanders, Paraplegic involved with the Recreation Advisory Committee
Eloise Taylor (his sister)**

1. Mr. Sanders asked if we were meeting with the JFK Rehabilitation Center or the Kessler Institute, both of which are involved with rehabilitation. So far these are not in the groups but they could be.
2. Ms. Taylor's grandson, who is 16 years old, is also in a wheel chair so they are talking from this perspective.

Appendix C – Public Input Summaries

3. Do not see too many people in wheel chairs at the parks but there is not much for them to do.
4. Need fitness stations for wheel chairs in the parks.
5. Need a Miracle Field so handicap children can get involved in baseball.

Vision for the Future

1. Fitness stations for wheel chairs in the parks.
2. Miracle Field.
3. Fishing access like at Boyd Park in New Brunswick.
4. Amphitheater for concerts and plays so that they can avoid renting a stage.
5. Being able to watch scenery, feed the ducks, drive golf carts around for those who cannot watch much.
6. Light for the facilities at Inman Park.
7. Provide accessible restrooms.
8. Provide more programming for summer basketball league which can really help to build community.
9. Make more opportunities available for handicap children to play soccer, baseball, and softball.

Parents of Kids with Disabilities

Present: **Linda Hampton**
 Jessie Wachawski
 Nancy Lands
 Wayne Bain, Brandstetter Carroll Inc.

Issues

1. Loss of programs with Somerset County. These programs provided social skills, sports, music, teen drop-in, games, cooking, exercise, trips, horse riding, summer games, teen camps and more.
2. There is nothing centrally located for the kids.
3. Communication is an issue from facilities such as recreation and the parents.
4. Not much offered in Franklin Township, adaptive basketball at Franklin Park School for four weeks, Harmony Program at the Senior Center, Franklin Township soccer, Buddy Boy Program.

Vision:

1. Diverse activities for all ages
2. Need a recreation center for more inclusive programs, ethnic, cultural, athletics, and aquatics.
3. Stagger staff at the senior center and offer other types of programs other than senior programs.

Appendix C – Public Input Summaries

4. Need staff person to clean up building and set up for programs.
5. Provide or offer trips such as skiing, tubing, cross country skiing within the Township as well as hiking.
6. Provide the TR program in Franklin Township or fund the one that was cancelled in Somerset County.
7. Need adaptive playgrounds and picnic areas with shelters and restrooms.

Therapeutic Recreation

Present: Shakira Lindsey

Wayne Bain, Brandstetter Carroll Inc.

1. Ms. Lindsey is involved with the Commission for people with disabilities. They go outside of the community for Challenger Baseball since 2001. There is a good Buddy Ball program in Hillsborough which has four teams. They utilize a lot of high school kids who volunteer for the program and has been successful.
2. She would not have to go to programs outside her district if programs were held in Franklin Township.
3. There is a need for more programs for children with special needs. They are not always included in other programs in the County and may not need to be.
4. They need programs to teach fundamental skills by age groups, such as awareness skills. These need to be accomplished year round. The County also has good programs for cooking, theater, social skills, music and the Township is no longer a part of it. They sign up for those programs at the County then since the Township does not participate financially, they are secondary on the list and sometimes get closed out of programs. They also have to pay more money for these programs.
5. Nassau Park Program was closed and now they have all day sessions at Williams Park. There was a peer camp which had a two week program but the trips were cancelled.
6. There are currently four teams with Challenger League in softball and baseball. Coaches are trained for this program. Many of the kids cannot compete in the program. There are limits to their skills.
7. Somerset's program provides programs that include play skills (sports) teaching fundamental skills for younger kids and teens. They also provide recreation outside boundaries, cooking, theater, social skills, music, etc.
8. Somerset is their second choice since the Township no longer pays for the program. The parents have to pay additional fees if they attend these programs.

Vision

1. If inclusion is going to happen, it must be done right.
2. Have program's in Franklin Township similar to Somerset's, however more inclusive.
3. Partner with the High Schools and train students as volunteers to help with kids with special needs.

ELECTED OFFICIAL INTERVIEWS

Met With: Council Persons – Comments are not specific to any one individual

1. Colonial Park will have 80 new acres that will be developed and the Township needs to coordinate some of these improvements with the County.
2. Some of the farmland in the community could be used for parks.
3. A Miracle Field is needed.
4. An aquatic center is needed.
5. Soccer needs additional fields.
6. There are too many historic sites that are costly to operate and maintain.
7. There are several adult communities which have asked for more tennis courts. They all have facilities within their communities but need access to additional ones.
8. It is felt that the Middlebush Plan is too intense and need to cut back on development.
9. Need more parks in the south.
10. Recreation Council does not have all sports represented.
11. Some people feel that the open space tax is too high.
12. They spend too much to maintain historic properties.
13. Need more practice fields for organized sports.
14. Need to look at the impact of more organized sports and activities on staff requirements.
15. Middlebush Park needs to be developed.
16. The Middle School needs to be upgraded with lights, synthetic field, improved restrooms, etc.

STAFF INTERVIEWS

Met With: Shonda Sanchez, Senior Citizen Coordinator

1. Shonda worked four years with Howard Resources and five years with the Township.
2. She enjoys the aspect of working with individuals, managing activities, and likes the human part of the job with a business aspect.
3. The senior center has a management contract for maintenance.
4. Seniors utilize the center from 8:30 – 4:30 daily.
5. They do rent the center to other groups.
6. She is responsible each day for the set up of various groups.
7. Public Works is responsible for setting up the tables and chairs for the groups.
8. They are limited to the number of programs because of the lack of staff for set up.
9. Township contracts with the County for senior buses at a cost of \$143,000 per year.
10. Buses must return to their home base by 3:30 p.m.

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11. The buses provide three round trips per day and they need two buses to cover both ends of the county.
12. The senior building is very open and at times they have no idea who is in the building. The facility has security issues.

Vision for the Future

1. Need a computer room dedicated to the seniors for their use and training.
2. Need a recreation center with a senior component, walking track, pool, gym, fitness center, etc. Center should include an indoor pool.
3. Current senior center needs additional storage areas assigned to various groups such as aerobics.
4. Need license to show movies to the senior groups.

Staff

Met with: Sue VanAken, Superintendent of Recreation

1. Sue has been with Franklin Township for 26 ½ years as Program Coordinator and now Superintendent of Recreation.
2. All maintenance associated with Recreation i.e. landscaping, mowing, building set up, etc. is handled by Public Works.
3. Her duties include planning and promoting all programs for youth and adults.
4. Saffie Kallow is full time, works for Sue, and is the Program Coordinator for all age groups.
5. Bruce Medley is full time in charge of the Youth Nature program and works for Alice.
6. Sue also coordinates TR Recreation. She believes many of the programs offered at Somerset County could be offered at the Senior Center.
7. There are 18 group homes in Franklin Township.
8. Additional responsibility for Sue is full time, seasonal, part time, payroll, newsletter, and schedules, TR Basketball Program in fall (4 weeks on Fridays at Franklin Park School).

Additional Programs

1. Franklin Middle School – Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday Teen Drop in.
2. Franklin High School – Pre Season Softball Clinics.
3. MacAfee Road School – 5 week summer Safety Town.
4. Franklin Park School – Full day Summer Camp and Preschool Athletic program, Hot Shot Basketball.
5. Sampson G. Smith School – volleyball and basketball.
6. Night use of Senior Center for aerobics, Zumba, Youth Council, TR Programs, Play and Learn, Toddler Adventures, Dance Sampler on weekends.

Vision

1. Recreation center with pool, gym, fitness, track, multipurpose rooms, etc.

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2. Need additional ball fields for soccer, cricket, football, baseball, and softball.
3. Seniors want programs at night.
4. Need an outdoor Family Aquatic Center.
5. Satellite drop in center on the southern end of town.
6. More linkages of bike paths, walking trails, especially the southern end.
7. Could use picnic areas with shelters, a bocce area, horseshoes, etc.
8. Sand volleyball.

Parks and Recreation Foreman Greg Pinheiro

The Public Works staff is assigned to the parks. They are under the supervision of Victor Stephens, the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works. Below are some items that were discussed:

1. There are two cricket fields and Weston Road Field that need to be upgraded.
2. The soccer field at Middlebush is really just rough seeding before they were used and have no chance to recuperate.
3. Ricky Geotz is with the Board of Education and is the coordinator of the grounds. There is irrigation on the three soccer fields at the SGS School which have not been used in three years. From what we understand, this is the Township's.
4. The following are some of the softball fields in the community: 1 at Williams Park, 2 at Inman Park, 1 at Delar, 1 at Consovoy, 1 at Castleton, 1 at Kingston School, and one at Dunham Lebed Park.
5. Kingston School site was rehabilitated last year and has no parking. The one at Consovoy has a short field. Consovoy, Casleton, Inman, Williams, and Delar are used by the seniors.
6. They drag and shape the fields, but their main issue is the grass areas. They have time and manpower time constraints but they lost some personnel and currently are working with a 5-6 man crew. There is one grass mowing crew.
7. This group is responsible for maintaining the trees along 150 miles of right-of-way and most of this work is accomplished during the winter.
8. They also provide mulch on the playgrounds and he is a certified playground inspector.
9. There is no time to spruce up the landscaping, they may do it one time a month in the summer. They maintain all the town greenspaces.
10. 10 years ago, they had an 8-10 man crew and now they have taken on a lot more land since that time. A study in the 90's recommended doubling the size of their crew at that time.
11. Sometimes they will do some special projects for the Open Space Committee and John Loos but this is all done on an overtime basis.
12. The crew has the capability of developing parking lots, some fencing, invasive species removal, and some other activities and these are normally done on Saturdays.

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13. The headquarters is at the Churchill Avenue garage and there is also a small building at Inman Park.
14. They do not perform any building maintenance and the Department of Public Works does this with subcontractors or in-house with other divisions.
15. They also set up for events, such as tents, tables, etc. They set up the tables and chairs in the Community Center building and this takes 2-3 hours per week.
16. At Samson G. Smith School they maintain the soccer fields and they have a 20 year agreement with the schools to maintain them. These could be the best fields if they were developed and designed correctly. They have heavy use on all of their fields.
17. At Inman Park they provided some numbers for budget to improve the basketball court surfaces but no action has been taken.
18. Their division has a great safety record.
19. They have a certified playground safety inspector on staff and perform these inspections regularly.
20. They also maintain the pool at Williams Park which is 10-12 years old and needs to be replastered. This also includes an outdoor spray park with an automated system.
21. The group also picks up the trash and recycling bins on Hamilton Street, JFK, and Easton Avenues.
22. They do pick up the trash from the parks on Fridays and Mondays, but there is no trash collected on the weekends. Williams Park has the most trash because it is one of the most heavily used parks.
23. They experience a lot of vandalism in the parks.
24. They have one staff member who lines and drags fields in the baseball/softball seasons.
25. They maintain their equipment in the off season.
26. In the winter, they also install parking lot bollards, do tree work, stump removal and refurbish their mowers. They also provide snow plowing throughout the City.
27. They have the equipment for fertilizing and aerating, but no time. They do have three certified sprayers for herbicides and do about 1-2 parks per season, so they really do not get much weeding and only get fertilizer and lime once every four years.
28. The soccer groups line their own fields.
29. Most of the playgrounds have been replaced within the last five years and are from Game Time.

March 10, 2011

Met with: Alice Osipowitz at 9:00 a.m. regarding cricket

1. There are two fields at Weston Road that are used for cricket games. They have half day leagues and full day leagues. They want a very manicured area and exclusive use of the area. They get basically two days per month per league for use of the areas.
2. Need to upgrade the Middle School site and cannot use open space money because it is on school grounds. This could essentially solve a lot of the facility needs.

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3. Development of parks history included Franklin Park, added in the 1980's.
4. In the 1990's they added one soccer field at Dunham Lebed Park. 2004 Middlebush Park was acquired.
5. In the 1990's they improved three soccer fields at Sampson School. There is one full and two small fields leased from the schools. The 55+ softball league uses 3 fields.
6. Softball fields are currently located with 2 at Inman Park, and 1 at William's Park.

Patrick D. Hoagland

Patrick D. Hoagland, ASLA

May 6, 2011

Date

4. Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2010 at 3:00 PM

PRESENT: Councilman Theodore Chase; Councilman Rajiv Prasad; Councilman James Vassanella; Councilman Carl Wright; Kenneth W. Daly, Township Manager; Mark Healey, Director of Planning

Open Space – long range plan

With continuing and competing demands for open space preservation, recreation improvements and historic preservation, the Committee discussed the need to: (1) develop policy on how to address these competing demands; and (2) develop a strategic plan addressing how this policy would be implemented in terms of responsibilities, financial matters, etc.. The Committee directed Mr. Healey to provide, at the next Committee meeting, a suggested process/timeline for development of a strategic plan, with such strategic plan to eventually address the range of activities payable from the Open Space Trust Fund including: open space preservation, historic preservation and maintenance of historic resources; and, construction and improvement of recreation facilities.

June 8, 2010 at 3:00 PM

PRESENT: Councilman Theodore Chase; Councilman Rajiv Prasad; Councilman James Vassanella; Councilman Carl Wright (via conference call); Kenneth W. Daly, Township Manager; Mark Healey, Director of Planning

Open Space/ Recreation/ Historic Preservation: Planning & Decision Making.

Mr. Daly provided an introduction and overview of the matter. Mr. Healey provided an overview of his review of the matter as outlined in his memorandum to the Committee dated 6/3/10. The Committee discussed various issues related to the matter including analyses to be included in the scope of services, potential recreation improvements to be evaluated, timeframes for development of the plan and the need for an open, inclusive and deliberate process starting with inclusion of various Township bodies in the development of a detailed scope of services to be provided with the RFP. After Committee discussion, the Committee directed Mr. Healey to prepare a draft scope of services for the Committee's review at their July meeting. After the Committee's review of the draft scope of services, the draft scope would then be distributed to various Township bodies (e.g., Planning Board, Recreation Advisory Council, OSAC, TAC, AAC, Historic Commission). The Committee would review the input of the various Township bodies at their September meeting and then forward the scope of services to the full Council for the second meeting in September.

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July 13, 2010 at 3:00 PM

PRESENT: Councilman Theodore Chase; Councilman Rajiv Prasad; Councilman James Vassanella; Councilman Carl Wright; Kenneth W. Daly, Township Manager; Mark Healey, Director of Planning.

RFP for Comprehensive Plan – Parks, Open Space, etc.

Mr. Healey summarized the draft RFP. The Committee discussed the RFP and made the following suggested changes:

- Consultant's evaluation would include evaluation of potential safety and security issues associated with report recommendations (e.g., park locations and improvements).
- Consultant's evaluation would include evaluation of transportation access associated with report recommendations (e.g., proximity to population, public transportation).
- RFP to indicate that proposal are due 1 month after issuance of RFP.

After the Committee's review of the draft RFP, the Committee directed Mr. Healey to incorporate the changes discussed and then to have the draft RFP distributed to various Township bodies (e.g., Planning Board, Recreation Advisory Council, OSAC, TAC, AAC, Historic Commission).

The Committee would review the input of the various Township bodies at their September meeting and then forward the RFP to the full Council for the second meeting in September.

September 14, 2010 at 3:00 PM

PRESENT: Councilman Theodore Chase; Councilman Rajiv Prasad; Councilman James Vassanella; Councilman Carl Wright; Kenneth W. Daly, Township Manager; Mark Healey, Director of Planning.

RFP for Comprehensive Plan – Parks, Open Space, etc.

Mr. Healey presented the comments received on the draft scope of services as outlined in his 9/9/10 memo to the Committee. After discussion of all comments, the Committee recommended the following:

- The two related efforts (i.e., recreation needs assessment and development of policy alternatives for use of the Trust Fund) would remain under one RFP. However, the Committee agreed with the OSAC's recommendation that the recreation needs assessment should be prepared first in phase 1 followed by the development of policy alternatives for use of the Trust Fund in a second phase.

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- The Committee agreed with OSAC’s recommendation that the scope should more clearly indicate that the study should include a fiscal analysis that evaluates fiscal feasibility of all demands on the Trust Fund relative to existing and projected future Trust Fund balances. The Committee indicated that this should occur during the 2nd phase - i.e., along with development of policy alternatives for use of the Trust Fund.
- The Committee agreed that the scope should include deadlines for each phase (and sub-phases) in order to keep the study moving forward in an expeditious manner.
- A survey should be included in the scope and questions should address issues relative to both phases – i.e., recreation needs and overall for use of the Trust Fund (e.g., relative interest in use of Trust Fund for active recreation vs. farmland preservation, etc.).
- The evaluation of long-term capital needs for Twp-owned historic properties should be specifically identified in the scope and should be conducted in the 2nd phase.
- The Committee agreed that the process should incorporate some type of Township “buy-in” or “approval” of its findings and recommendations. This led to discussion of having the recreation needs assessment document adopted by the Planning Board as the Recreation Plan element of the Master Plan. The Committee indicated that the scope should be structured in this manner.
- The Committee determined that the Planning Board should take the lead on production of the first phase (i.e., needs assessment plan), conduct the hearing(s), etc., while the Township Council, specifically the Land Use and Open Space Committee, will take the lead on the second phase (i.e., policy development), conduct the hearing(s), etc..
- The scope should address how the Council would be involved in the first phase (e.g., at a minimum, the Committee identified as a focus group to be consulted).
- The other recommendations (e.g., those from Planning Board and Historic Preservation Commission) made sense and will also be incorporated into the draft scope of service.

The Committee directed Mr. Healey to revise the draft scope of services reflective of the above and in time for consideration by the full Council at its September 28, 2010 meeting.

October 26, 2010 at 3:00 PM

PRESENT: Councilman Theodore Chase; Councilman Rajiv Prasad (via teleconference); Councilman James Vassanella; Councilman Carl Wright; Kenneth W. Daly, Township Manager; Mark Healey, Director of Planning

Needs Assessment - Update

Mr. Healey indicated that the RFP had been issued and that it appeared that there was substantial interest from potential firms. Mr. Healey also informed the Committee of the

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addendum to the RFP to delete the request for an evaluation of the potential long-term capital costs anticipated for maintenance of the 21 Township-owned historic structures and evaluation of potential preservation alternatives. This work will be done by the Township's Historic Preservation Consultant.

December 7, 2010 at 3:00 PM

PRESENT: Councilman Theodore Chase; Councilman James Vassanella (via teleconference); Councilman Rajiv Prasad; Councilman Carl Wright; Kenneth W. Daly, Township Manager; Mark Healey, Director of Planning.

Action Plan – Review of Proposals

In response to the RFP issued by the Township, the Township received proposals from the following firms: Simone Collins; T&M Associates; Brandstetter Carroll; CME Associates; and Neglia Engineering Associates. In order to allow Committee ample time to review the proposals the proposals were distributed to each of the Committee members on November 24th along with a suggested scoring sheet.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the Committee members' review of each of the proposals. With respect to each of the proposals, the discussion centered around the criteria in the suggested scoring sheet including: (1) the technical expertise and experience demonstrated in the proposal (i.e., apparent understanding of the work to be performed, the overall experience of the consultant in conducting similar work, and expertise of the individuals proposed to conduct the work); (2) the proposed procedures and methods (i.e., soundness of the approach relative to the scope of services, techniques for collecting and analyzing data and input, and sequence and relationships of the major steps and methods for managing the work to ensure timely and orderly completion; and, (3) cost (i.e., cost relative to other proposals received, cost relative to level of expertise consultant's personnel proposed to do the work, and the extent to which the Consultant proposes to address the RFP in the most efficient and cost effective manner).

The Committee was unanimous in their high regard for the Brandstetter Carroll proposal. All members felt that the qualifications of the project team (Brandstetter Carroll as lead firm and the selected specialized subconsultants) fit exactly what we need as expressed in the RFP, that the proposal demonstrated excellent understanding of the work to be performed, demonstrated excellent proposed methods to accomplish the work, and proposed a reasonable price.

The Committee was also impressed with the T&M proposal. The proposal demonstrated that the qualifications of the project team (including the sub-consultant who would help mostly in Phase 2) fit what we need, that the proposal demonstrated excellent

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understanding of the work to be performed and proposed methods to accomplish the work, and also proposed a reasonable price.

The Committee also found that Simone Collins and Neglia Engineering both presented strong proposals. However, in comparison to the Brandstetter Carroll and T&M proposals, most Committee members felt these proposals were slightly inferior in terms of either directly-relevant qualifications and/or proposed project approach. The Committee noted that Neglia Engineering offered the least expensive proposal, while Simone Collins was on the higher end of the cost proposals.

The Committee was unanimous in their low regard for the CME proposal. The proposal had the lowest combined score in terms of demonstrating directly-relevant experience and proposed procedures and methods, yet the proposed cost far exceeded all others.

At the end of the discussion, the Committee was unanimous in placing the Brandstetter Carroll proposal at the top of the list. Three of the four members felt that the T&M proposal was also in top two, while Councilman Vassanella preferred the Neglia Engineering proposal to T&M's. The Committee then decided to score the proposals as a whole Committee. The result of their scoring is indicated in the attached chart.

The result of this scoring placed the Brandstetter Carroll and T&M proposals at the top. Before making a recommendation to Council, the Committee would like to interview Brandstetter Carroll and T&M. The Committee would like to have these interviews conducted prior to the holiday break so that they can consider the results of the interviews before offering their suggestion to the Council, with the goal of having the Council approve at a meeting in January.

December 21, 2010 at 3:00 PM

PRESENT: Councilman Theodore Chase; Councilman James Vassanella; Councilman Carl Wright; Mark Healey, Director of Planning; Alice Osipowitz, Director of Parks & Recreation

Preservation and Recreation Needs Assessment and Action Plan – Interviews of Selected Firms

T&M Associates

Interview started at 3:15 pm

Present from the project team were Francis Mullen and Jeffrey Bottger of T&M and Andrew Strauss of Strauss and Associates/ Planners.

The T&M representatives gave a presentation which included presentation of relevant firm experience and particular experience of the project team, and similar projects conducted by the firm and project team. Mr. Strauss presented his role as sub-

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consultant to the project which would concentrate on financial aspects of conservation and overall utilization of Trust Fund, and explained his related experience and expertise.

The project team fielded various questions from the Committee and staff which topics included: their proposed methods for benchmarking; methods for conducting Phase II of the project; the service area evaluation/ mapping; and, proposed methods for conducting the survey.

The project team clarified that they would conduct the survey via phone if that was deemed necessary by the Township in order to ensure that a random sample was collected and in order to ensure that the survey was scientifically valid. They clarified that such would be done without change to the cost proposal.

Interview ended at 4:30 pm

Brandstetter Carroll Inc.

Interview started at 4:30 pm

Present from the project team were Patrick D. Hoagland of Brandstetter Carroll and Charlie Cunion of RBA group.

Mr. Hoagland gave a presentation which included presentation of relevant firm experience and the particular experience of project team, similar projects conducted by the firm and project team members, and a detailed presentation of their proposed approach to this particular project. Mr. Cunion presented his firm's role as sub-consultant to the project.

The project team fielded various questions from the Committee and staff which topics included: their proposed methods for benchmarking and levels of service evaluation; the service area evaluation/ mapping; proposed methods for conducting the survey; and their proposed process for this project and proposed use of a steering committee.

The project team fielded questions regarding the potential pros/ cons of a steering committee versus the process laid-out in the RFP (i.e., Planning Board in charge of Phase I; Council in charge of Phase II). The project team clarified that, if deemed appropriate by the Township, the project could proceed as laid out in their proposal and RFP with or without a steering committee. The project team further clarified that the deliverable provided at the end of Phase I would consist of a Recreation Plan prepared for adoption by the Planning Board as an element of the Township Master Plan per the Municipal Land Use Law, as outlined in the RFP, which would be provided without change to the cost proposal.

Interview ended at 5:45 pm

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After conclusion of the second interview, the Committee discussed the relative merits of each proposal with respect to the Township needs as outlined in the RFP. After conclusion of the discussion, the Committee was moving in the direction of recommending Brandstetter Carroll as the Committee generally felt their proposal and presentation demonstrated a better level of responsiveness to the particular needs expressed in the RFP and demonstrated experience and expertise that was more in line with the Township's specific needs for this project. The Committee gave a self-imposed deadline of Monday morning December 27th for any follow-up questions that Committee members may have. After that, the Committee hopes to make a formal recommendation to the full Council for their January 4, 2011 meeting with the goal of awarding a contract later in January.

January 18, 2011 at 4:00 PM

PRESENT: Councilman Theodore Chase; Councilman James Vassanella; Councilman Carl Wright; Donna Vieiro, Acting Township Manager; Mark Healey, Director of Planning.

Recreation Needs Assessment/ Action Plan

After Committee discussion, it was decided that the Steering Committee for the Recreation Needs Assessment/ Action Plan should be comprised of: the Land Use and Open Space Committee; the Director of Recreation; the Director of Planning; and an additional member of the Planning Board.

Since the Open Space Committee's meeting that night was cancelled, the Land Use Committee requested that the Open Space Committee submit, to Mr. Healey's attention, any comments on the recommended appointment of Brandstetter Carroll. Mr. Healey will forward comments to Council for their discussion of the appointment the following Tuesday, January 25th.

Finally, the Committee discussed the reimburseable expenses in the Brandstetter Carroll proposal and asked that staff look at potential ways to reduce the expenses (e.g., putting on a cap that is lower than the proposal or requiring the consultant to pro-rate the costs) and that such reductions be placed in the contract with the firm.

February 15, 2011 at 4:00 PM

PRESENT: Councilman Theodore Chase; Councilman Rajiv Prasad; Councilman James Vassanella; Councilman Carl Wright; James P. Pettit (Planning Board appointee to Steering Committee for Recreation Needs Assessment/ Action Plan); Donna Vieiro, Acting Township Manager; Alice Osipowitz, Director of Parks & Recreation; Mark Healey, Director of Planning; Pat Hoagland, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc.; Wayne Bain, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc.; Annette Schultz, The RBZ Group.

Appendix C – Public Input Summaries

Recreation Needs Assessment/ Action Plan (Steering Committee session)

The consultant team of Mr. Hoagland, Mr. Bain and Ms. Schultz facilitated Steering Committee discussion. Discussion concentrated on the recommended planning process including:

- Opportunities for public input
- Stakeholder Groups – The Committee reviewed the draft list and identified various additional stakeholder groups that should be invited to attend. The consultant will assemble an expanded list of stakeholder groups and distribute to the Steering Committee to ensure all relevant groups are identified. Consultants will work with staff to set up focus group meetings with stakeholders.
- Presentations by the consultant and content/timing of deliverables
- Fiscal analysis review - The Committee discussed the timing of the fiscal analysis and its relation to the development of long term policy alternatives
- Surveys – Consultants described the proposed survey methods (both mail and web/handout). Consultants facilitated discussion of initial draft of the community attitude and interest survey (i.e., the mail survey) with the Committee. The Committee offered various comments on the draft. A follow-up draft will be emailed to the Committee for further review before the draft survey is sent to the rest of the Council and to the Planning Board prior to being sent out.

March 15, 2011 at 4:00 PM

PRESENT: Councilman Theodore Chase; Councilman Rajiv Prasad; Councilman James Vassanella; Councilman Carl Wright; James P. Pettit (Planning Board appointee to Steering Committee for Recreation Needs Assessment/ Action Plan); Donna Vieiro, Acting Township Manager; Alice Osipowitz, Director of Parks & Recreation; Mark Healey, Director of Planning; Pat Hoagland, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc.

Recreation Needs Assessment/ Action Plan (Steering Committee session)

Pat Hoagland of Brandstetter Carroll, Township consultant on the Preservation & Recreation Needs Assessment & Action Plan, facilitated a “focus group” type meeting with the Committee. Committee members presented their opinions regarding: open space and farmland preservation targets; various suggestions and comments regarding active and passive recreation facilities and programs; and generally how to best use the “Open Space, Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund” to improve parks, recreation, open space, trails, farmland and historic resources preservation opportunities in Franklin Township. The Committee also discussed the draft mail survey and provided some suggestions for its improvement.

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April 19, 2011 at 4:00 PM

PRESENT: Councilman Theodore Chase; Councilman Rajiv Prasad; Councilman Carl Wright; Donna Vieiro, Acting Township Manager; Mark Healey, Director of Planning

Needs Assessment and Action Plan.

Mr. Healey described the status update provided by the consultant, which is as follows:

- Public Workshop went well last week. Minutes will be completed next week.
- All Stakeholder Groups have been completed. Over 25 groups. Memos summarizing the meetings will be ready by the end of April.
- RBA has visited all of the Township owned and school sites. Their inventory forms should be completed by the end of April.
- Consultant visited all HOA sites in March and RBA should have them mapped by the end of April.
- Consultant also visited most of the open spaces that have potential for park development last Friday following the public workshop.
- The last few items will be part of the mapping of the park types and facilities for the geographic distribution analysis.
- Surveys have been mailed out. Results should be ready by mid June. This is the biggest obstacle to finishing the Needs Analysis portion.
- 137 on-line surveys have been completed so far.
- Consultant is now shifting to the benchmark survey and will send that out by the end of April and conduct phone interviews as needed in May.
- Consultant is in the process of summarizing the previous reports which they complete this by the end of May.

Consultant indicated that there wasn't a need to meet with the Committee again until the surveys are completed and summarized. At that time they will present all of the findings from the public input portion of the project. However, the consultant indicated that the Committee prefers, they could have an interim meeting to go over the stakeholders and public meetings and the park land distribution analysis (possibly the May Committee meeting), leaving a whole meeting to go over the survey results, which can be a lengthy discussion (possibly the June Committee meeting).

May 17, 2011 at 4:00 PM

PRESENT: Councilman Rajiv Prasad; Councilman Carl Wright; Councilman James Vassanella; Mark Healey, Director of Planning; Alice Osipowitz, Director of Parks & Recreation; Pat Hoagland, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc.; Wayne Bain, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc.; Charles Cunion, The RBZ Group.

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Recreation Needs Assessment and Action Plan.

Mr. Hoagland, along with Mr. Bain and Mr. Cunion, provided a status update on the project. The following was presented to the Committee: the means employed thus far to gather input (mail and web surveys, stakeholders meetings, public workshop); the results of the stakeholder meetings and the public workshop; an overview of the groups represented at the stakeholder meetings and public workshop; common themes of input and results of early straw polls; and next steps.

The Committee next discussed: draft maps presented by the consultants; the need for pocket parks in Wards 4 and 5; and the desire for access to the Canal. The Committee also discussed additional means of getting the word out (particularly increasing awareness of the web survey) including distributing a notice through the schools including through private schools in town where possible.

Finally, the Committee went over the draft of the benchmark survey which will be sent to nearby towns. The Committee suggested certain changes to it and identified towns that should be contacted.

June 21, 2011 at 5:00 PM

PRESENT: Councilman Carl Wright (arrived at 6p); Councilman James Vassanella; James P. Pettit (Planning Board appointee to Steering Committee for Recreation Needs Assessment/ Action Plan); Lt. Robert Vornlocker, Police Department; Mark Healey, Director of Planning; Alice Osipowitz, Director of Parks & Recreation; Pat Hoagland, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc.; Wayne Bain, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc.; Charles Cunion, The RBA Group.

Recreation Needs Assessment and Action Plan.

Mr. Hoagland, along with Mr. Bain and Mr. Cunion, provided a presentation on the results of their analysis as outlined in the "Need Assessment Technical Memorandum" dated June 21, 2001 and as indicated on a 12-sheet set of maps. The main emphasis of their presentation was the results of the mail survey.

The next steps were discussed as follows:

- the consultant will continue to work on the report including continuing to work on the benchmarking survey and will start working on draft recommendations on service levels and other plan recommendations
- the Committee will meet in July to go over the consultants additional work.
- the Committee will meet again in September to review the consultant's draft recommendations.
- instead of holding a public session in the summer, it was decided that the public Needs Assessment Presentation will take place in September and that such meeting should be held in the Council Chambers and televised. The Committee will pick a

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date at their July meeting but requested that Mr. Healey confirm available dates for Council Chambers in the month of September beforehand.

July 26, 2011 at 5:00 PM

PRESENT: Councilman Theodore Chase, Councilman Carl Wright (arrived at 6p); James P. Pettit (Planning Board appointee to Steering Committee for Recreation Needs Assessment/ Action Plan); Alice Osipowitz, Director of Parks & Recreation; Pat Hoagland, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc.; Wayne Bain, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc.; Charles Cunion, The RBA Group.

Recreation Needs Assessment and Action Plan.

Mr. Hoagland, along with Mr. Bain and Mr. Cunion, provided a presentation on the results of their analysis as outlined in the "Need Assessment Technical Memorandum #2" dated July 26, 2011 and as indicated on various maps presented to the Committee. The Committee members reviewed the maps and Memorandum submitted by the consultants and asked questions regarding same. Hoagland presented draft levels of service as presented in "Need Assessment Technical Memorandum #2" and discussed same with the Committee. The Committee provided input with respect to the Township levels of service which input will be the basis of further analysis by the consultants and made part of future documents provided by the consultants. A discussion ensued regarding future population projections and it was agreed that the consultant will use the 2010 Census data as a base and will use the NJTPA projections as a basis for adjusting future projections. The Committee also discussed potential recommendations in the report which the consultants will continue to work on.

The next steps were discussed as follows:

- the consultant will continue to work on the report
- the Committee will meet again in September
- a public Needs Assessment Presentation will take place in September and such meeting should be held in the Council Chambers and televised.

September 20, 2011 at 5:00 PM

PRESENT: Councilman Theodore Chase; Councilman Rajiv Prasad; Councilman James Vassanella; Councilman Carl Wright; James P. Pettit (Planning Board appointee to Steering Committee for Recreation Needs Assessment/ Action Plan); Alice Osipowitz, Director of Parks & Recreation; Pat Hoagland, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc.; Charles Cunion, The RBA Group.

Recreation Needs Assessment and Action Plan.

Mr. Hoagland and Mr. Cunion, continued the discussion of the results of their analysis as outlined in the "Need Assessment Technical Memorandum #2" dated July 26, 2011 and as indicated on various maps and figures previously presented to the Committee. The Committee members reviewed the maps and Memorandum submitted by the consultants and asked

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questions regarding same. the Committee also discussed the public input session which was held the previous night including the nature of the comments received.

Mr. Hoagland then facilitated a discussion of a 3-page hand-out entitled "Potential Solutions" which outlined various potential solutions for the Committee to consider based upon the input received and analysis performed to date. The Committee proceeded to discuss the potential solutions at length. After Committee discussion, the consultant will continue to work on the report and prepare a draft for the Committee's review.

October 18, 2011 at 5:00 PM

PRESENT: Councilman Theodore Chase; Councilman James Vassanella; James P. Pettit (Planning Board appointee to Steering Committee for Recreation Needs Assessment/ Action Plan); Alice Osipowitz, Director of Parks & Recreation; and consultants Pat Hoagland, Wayne Bain and Charles Cunion.

Recreation Needs Assessment and Action Plan.

The project consultants presented "Need Assessment Technical Memorandum #3" dated October 18, 2011 (the majority of which was provided previously to the Committee for their review prior to the meeting). The following matters were covered in the "Need Assessment Technical Memorandum #3" and discussed by the Committee:

- updated strategic plan and potential solutions;
- updated benchmarking analyses;
- updated inventory on parks and recreation resources;
- updated analyses of park and facility needs;
- discussion/ analysis of site concept plans; and
- discussion/ analysis of order-of-magnitude capital project estimates.

In addition to the above, specific matters discussed by the Committee included potentially partnering with the YMCA or similar group in-lieu of a municipally-financed, constructed and managed community recreation center including potential sites, pros and cons, etc.; opportunities for revenue generation of various programs and facilities; the use of the Open Space Trust Fund for on-going maintenance of parks in addition to natural open space sites; and amending the report to better differentiate between input received from the mail survey versus other sources of input such as the web survey and meetings.

After Committee discussion, the consultant will continue to work on the report and prepare a revised drafts for the Committee's review prior to the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 30th at 6pm. The next meeting would occur at its regularly scheduled date of Tuesday, December 20th. Public presentation of the draft report/ recommendations would be expected to occur in January.

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November 30, 2011 at 6:00 PM

PRESENT: Councilman Theodore Chase; Councilman James Vassanella; Councilman Rajiv Prasad; Councilman Carl Wright; James P. Pettit (Planning Board appointee to Steering Committee for Recreation Needs Assessment/ Action Plan); Mark Healey, Director of Planning & Zoning; Alice Osipowitz, Director of Parks & Recreation; and consultants Pat Hoagland, Wayne Bain and Charles Cunion.

Recreation Needs Assessment and Action Plan.

The project consultants presented "Technical Memorandum #4" dated November 30, 2011. The following matters were covered in the "Technical Memorandum #4" and discussed by the Committee:

- updated site concept plans
- updated order-of-magnitude capital project estimates.
- updated strategic plan
- updated strategies
- priority ranking of capital projects.

After Committee discussion, the Committee directed the consultant to update "Technical Memorandum #4" with respect to various items including certain of the site concept plans, the open space trust fund summary, capital improvement rankings, and the order of magnitude costs.

The next step in the process will consist of the consultant meeting with the other Council members in December and presenting the draft report to the Planning Board and Open Space Advisory Committee at their December meetings. An updated "Technical Memorandum #4", which incorporates the Committee's latest input, will be provided to the Council members, Planning Board and Open Space Advisory Committee prior to their meetings in December. A public session will be held in January.

January 31, 2012 at 5:30 PM

PRESENT: Councilman Theodore Chase; Councilman Phillip Kramer; Councilman Carl Wright; Mark Healey, Director of Planning & Zoning; Alice Osipowitz, Director of Parks & Recreation, and consultant Pat Hoagland.

The members of the Open Space Advisory Committee and Recreation Advisory Council were provided the draft of "Preservation/ Recreation Needs Assessment and Action Plan" the previous week, at the same time the draft was provided to the Steering Committee, for their review and comment. The members of the Open Space Advisory Committee and Recreation Advisory Council were invited to attend this meeting to voice any comments, concerns, questions or suggestions they may have regarding the Plan. The meeting was noticed per the Sunshine Law in case a quorum of

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these groups were to attend. In attendance were: Nancy Sayre; Keith Stewart; Percy Sanders; Randy Jones; Fran Varacalli, FAV Consulting; John Herrling; Randy Jones; Arnold Schmidt; and Bill Connell.

1. Preservation/ Recreation Needs Assessment and Action Plan - Meeting with Members of the Open Space Advisory Committee and Recreation Advisory Council

Various members of the Open Space Advisory Committee and Recreation Advisory Council were in attendance and were invited express any comments, concerns, questions or suggestions they may have regarding the Plan, including the general direction of the plan and any specific recommendations contained within it. The following topics were discussed:

- Various members from both groups in attendance expressed strong support of the document
- Monitoring of results/ implementation - Mr. Hoagland suggested that the results/ implementation of the plan should be monitored on a continual basis, that a comprehensive reevaluation occur after 5 years (perhaps including a updated public survey) and that the plan be de-done after 10 years.
- Senior center staffing and effect on programming
- Relative importance of further trail improvements, perceived need for additional trails, the existing amount of trails in Franklin, the desire for certain specific improvements (e.g., trails within future parks and the North/South trail) and the need for further public awareness about trails that already exist.
- Use of Township website to alert public to the resources that exist in Franklin including parks, recreation, open space and trails. Suggestion for articles in newsletter to alert public to these resources and to alert public to the resources on the Township website generally.
- Potential use for field behind the high school for an indoor recreation facility that could be jointly used by the School District and the Township with some arrangement whereby the facility is constructed using the Trust Fund. A discussion ensued regarding the desire to partner with the School District, the various potential opportunities and constraints of any such arrangement, and previous/ ongoing efforts. Steering Committee members discussed the better potential for such an arrangement at the Middle School due to its more central location in the Township, its closer proximity to a greater number of potential users, due to lack of space at the High School, amongst other reasons.
- Partnering with the YMCA and/or other such organization to operate an indoor recreation facility including indoor swimming facilities. Mr. Hoagland addressed the construction and operational costs associated with such a facility and the benefits of partnering with an organization like the YMCA to operate, and preferably, construct the facility, with the Township providing the land and negotiating Township and School District use of the facilities. A desire to have the facility centrally-located was discussed including at the Municipal Complex at Amwell/ DeMott or other property within that general proximity

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- within the Township. The potential for re-use of privately-owned land (e.g., a currently vacant warehouse site between Hamilton and Churchill was identified as an example).
- Prioritization of improvements with finishing Middlebush Park being identified as a key priority along with improvement of Catalpa and partnering with the YMCA and/or other such organization to operate an indoor recreation/pool facility also being identified as higher priority items.
 - Benefits of having lighted fields including more field time allowing greater amount service to groups/ kids using fields. "NIMBY" concerns was discussed, along with potential for lights at the Middle School. Lighting of fields was discussed as a high priority item.
 - The need to review/ develop, sooner than later, a process or protocol for involvement of the Open Space Advisory Committee, the Recreation Advisory Council and other Township committees was discussed.

After the session with the members of the Open Space Advisory Committee and Recreation Advisory Council, the Steering Committee went over:

- Councilman Chase's written comments including: suggestion for a playground in the Scalzone Open Space area, better use of the Naaman Williams pool, physical constraints potentially affecting future improvements in certain parks, and the need to add certain explanatory notations to page 159.
- Mr. Healey handed out the summary of the Historic Preservation Commission's work with the Township's historic preservation consultant. The financial analysis will be revised to incorporate these recommendations.
- Councilman Kramer suggested that the Plan discuss the potential need for Trust Fund money with respect to the Franklin Inn.
- Mr. Healey discussed on-going efforts to acquire easements for the purpose of access to, and construction of, a pedestrian bridge behind the Somerset Diner to access the Canal tow path, that the Canal Commission set aside approximately \$250,000 for its construction, and suggested that the Plan indicate the possibility that the Township may be asked to contribute to its construction if this amount is not sufficient.
- Next steps:
 - Public Presentation of the Plan before the entire Council - the consultant will present and facilitate - preferably in the evening of Tuesday, March 6 in Council Chambers.
 - Council resolution of support adopted either at that meeting (or most likely at a subsequent meeting).
- Since the consultant will already be in town, the Steering Committee would like to hold the Public Presentation in Council Chambers the evening of Tuesday, March 6. Councilman Kramer thought that this date might be penciled in for a Budget Hearing. If so, the Steering Committee would like to bump the Budget Hearing to another date so that the Public Presentation on the Preservation/Recreation Plan can occur on March 6. The Steering Committee requested that Mr. Healey communicate this to the Township Manager.

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- The Steering Committee also wants to give the other Council members and Mayor another opportunity to review the plan before it goes out to the public. The Steering Committee requested that Mr. Healey email the plan to the Council members and Mayor and to invite them to email whatever comments/questions they may have to the consultant and/or to meet with him when he is in town next Tuesday morning, Feb. 7th.