



SIMONE JAFFE COLLINS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

January 27, 2004

Pottstown / North Coventry Reconnections Study

PUBLIC MEETING #1 MEETING MINUTES

North Coventry Township, Chester County and
Borough of Pottstown, Montgomery County, PA
SJC Project No. 03071.10

Meeting Date: January 20, 2004
Meeting Time: 7 PM
Location: North Coventry Township Fire House

Notes:

1. North Coventry Township Supervisor Bud Jenschke welcomed everyone to the meeting, gave a brief overview of the project, and introduced the study committee and consultant team.
2. Peter Simone of Simone Jaffe Collins (SJC) gave an overview of the project scope, schedule, intent, goals, and study process. Project goals include connecting North Coventry Township residents and Pottstown residents to each other and to the Schuylkill River; identifying and removing physical and psychological barriers that disconnect people from the Schuylkill River and from the two communities; creating a pedestrian friendly environment; reinforcing historic and heritage connections; and improving recreational opportunities. An aerial map was used to show the location of the project study area.
3. Peter Simone presented the existing site conditions and the site analysis information that included site photographs and GIS mapping of existing conditions and proposed planning documents. The site analysis process was discussed in relation to determining possible recommendations for the project.
4. Peter Simone discussed possible trail connections in addition to the existing planned trail connections in the study area. Possible recommendations include: widening the Hanover Street Bridge pedestrian sidewalk; creating a pedestrian connection between Pottstown and the Coventry Mall; creating a trail on the south side of the Schuylkill River from the Hanover Street bridge to Laurel Locks Farm and canal; using the abandoned railroad trestle as a possible link between the two communities; improving pedestrian links on the Keim Street Bridge; and creating pedestrian links to Pottstown Landing, Kennilworth, and South Pottstown.

5. Peter Simone moderated the public comment portion of the meeting and explained the 'card process' and how the audience and study committee members input is used to develop ideas and the program for the Reconnections Study. A list of goals, facts, and concept ideas were discussed during the interactive portion of the meeting and are included below.

Goals

- Connect
- ID and Remove Barriers
- Create Pedestrian Friendly Environment
- Improve Entry Points to Pottstown and North Coventry - Gateways

Facts

- 12.5 Square Mile Area
- Two Water Trail Landings
- Bridges: Hanover Street, Route 100, Keim Street
- Old Railroad Trestle
- Great Architecture
- No Sidewalks
- Village Atmosphere in Pottstown Landing and Kenilworth
- Existing Parks
- Old Railroad Trestle
- Pottstown & North Coventry Have New Zoning
- Mrs. Smith's
- Regional Planning Efforts
- Montgomery County Open Space Initiative
- Bypass Impedes Connection
- Highways are Barriers
- SRGA Signage Study
- What is River Gradient in Study Area?
- What Divided Towns?
- River Road Floods
- Underground Railroad at Bellewood Estate? – Cultural Resource

Concepts

- "It's the River Stupid"
- Clear Views to Connect
- Pedestrian Amenities
- Events & Programming
- Encourage Activity Along River
- Support Mrs. Smith's Development
- Make Pedestrian Experience Nice
- Adjust Zoning
- Nighttime Experience
- Keep Folks Out of their Cars
- Full Interchange at 422
- Hanover Street Bridge Improvements
- Old Keim Street Bridge Improvements – with new wide bridge
- Sidewalks in Kenilworth
- Keim Street Sidewalks Improvements in Pottstown
- River Road Trail Improvements & Safety
- River Road Closed to Cars

- River Road Traffic-One Way
 - Visual Connections to River & Communities
 - Loop Trail Connecting Pottstown & NCT
 - Create Gateways to Both Communities
 - Create “Places” Along River & Bridge
 - Create SAFE Area
 - Lighting Safety
 - History Trail
 - Bring Back Towpath Along River
 - Supply People with Livable Community
 - Create Alliances Between Two Communities
 - National Heritage Signage
 - Interpretive Signs
 - Pottstown Signage
 - Trail Near Rt. 422
 - Swim in River
 - Use Balloons at River
 - Reconnections Club for Kids
 - Old Keim Street Bridge Dedicate to Pedestrians – with New Vehicular Bridge
 - Use Islands
 - Add Boat Ramps
 - Hanover Street Bridge – Access to River Near Bridge
 - Dredge Islands
 - Audio Tour Tape Thru Study Area
 - Make People Aware of Reconnections Plan
 - Bring Kids Together to Bring Community Together
 - Post Notices for Community Meetings
 - Boats Create Noise
 - Trail Connection from River Park to Laurel Locks
 - Public Transportation Loop
 - East Main Street One-Way
 - Involve School System
6. A meeting attendee stated that there should be better sidewalk connections on Keim Street in Pottstown.
 7. Several people in the audience stated they would like see the study incorporate a trail connection on River Road that connects from Pottstown starting at the Hanover Street Bridge to Laurel Locks and the Mall in North Coventry Township.
 8. Several people stated that Pottstown residents currently walk on River and Laurelwood Roads to go to the Mall. This connection is unsafe for pedestrians and sidewalk improvements and / or trails should be provided.
 9. Additional River Road improvements include closing down River Road to vehicular traffic and making the roadway a pedestrian trail. The audience also discussed decreasing the vehicular lanes on River Road to one-way traffic to accommodate a pedestrian trail on the road.
 10. A suggestion to open up visual connections to the Schuylkill River and the two communities was discussed.

11. An audience member suggested creating a loop trail connecting Pottstown and North Coventry Township. Two types of loop trails were discussed a public transportation loop trail and a walking loop trail. The loop trail would connect people to major destination points in North Coventry and Pottstown.
12. A meeting attendee suggested creating an audio tour tape as a means of teaching people about the two communities and the Schuylkill River.
13. Developing a signage system for the two communities was discussed. Several people stated that interpretive signage could be incorporated in both communities and along the Schuylkill River. Some of the interpretive signage ideas included teaching trail users about the Pottstown and North Coventry local history, cultural heritage, architecture, and Schuylkill River environmental and historical heritage.
14. It was suggested that there could be informational signage placed throughout the study area where people could leave information about local events happening in the two communities.
15. A meeting attendee suggested incorporating gateway signs as a way to connect the two communities.
16. A meeting attendee noted that there is really no good signage in North Coventry that lets visitors know that they are in North Coventry, South Pottstown, Pottstown landing, or Kennilworth.
17. Creating interactive places and / or seating areas along the Schuylkill River and the bridges were discussed. These areas would allow opportunities for residents from both communities to interact with one another.
18. The audiences discussed creating a safe environment on the proposed trails for people. One possibility is to incorporate nighttime lighting.
19. A meeting attendee noted that there are remnants of a towpath that follows the Schuylkill River. This would be an interesting path to re-establish and interpret.
20. Several meeting attendees suggested it is important to create alliances between the two communities. This could be done through the local schools, through community events, better signage, and websites.
21. David Downs of the Schuylkill River Greenway Association noted that SRGA is conducting a signage study along the Schuylkill River.
22. A meeting attendee questioned whether it is feasible for people to swim in the Schuylkill River.
23. Jack Lane from Pottstown Borough suggested using balloons along the river. The use of hot air balloons as well as tethered balloons was discussed.
24. A meeting attendee suggested creating a "Reconnections" club for kids. This club would help connect the two communities.
25. Several meeting attendees stated that River Road and South Pottstown flood during large rain storms. The Reconnections Study should take this fact into consideration in the study analyses and recommendations.

26. A meeting attendee suggested dedicating the Keim Street Bridge to pedestrians. PennDOT could then build a new vehicular bridge.
27. A meeting attendee suggested using islands located along the Schuylkill River as a possible open space gathering area should be explored. Peter Simone stated that SJC is in the process of contacting the PA Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation to determine who owns the islands. Another suggestion is to either clean the islands of debris or dredge the islands to allow canoeing along this portion of the river.
28. A meeting attendee noted that it is important to have access to the river near the Hanover and Keim Street Bridges.
29. Several meeting attendees stated that it is important to make people aware of the Reconnections Study and to better notify community members of the public meetings. A meeting attendee suggested sending notes home to schoolchildren to notify parents of the meetings.

Twenty-five (25) people signed the attendance sheet (Attached).

Please let us know if you should have any questions, additions, or revisions to these notes on or before February 9, 2004.

Respectfully Submitted,

SIMONE JAFFE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



Nicole Keegan, RLA

cc: Committee Members

Reconnections - Pottstown / North Coventry
 Public Meeting #1 January 20, 2004
 @ North Coventry Fire Hall

NAME	Address	PHONE NO.
P. Hardisty	8430 Schuylkill Rd Kennelworth	610-310-6552
Bon Downs	7754 Evans St Pottstown	610-326-0614
DA Haberszeth	1988 Coventryville Rd Pottstown (North Coventry)	327-8022
JOHN MURRAY	1252 SHENKEL RD NORTH COVENTRY	327-2465
Wotly Taylor	1426 Temple Rd. North Coventry	610-323-7174
Jack Long	100 East High St Pottstown	610-970-5510
Rob Morgan	850 N Charles St Pottstown	610-327-3100
ART GELORES	312 West King Street Pottstown (PDIDA)	484-433-4183
RUSSO KAREN VANDEGRAFT	142 River Rd. - North Coventry	610-326-9335
PAUL PRINCE	934 High St. P.O. Box 696 Pottstown Pa.	610-323-7700
Jim Fairchild	23 EUGEN A.G. Pottstown PA	610-970-6508
Rols Illeim	1031 Bellemeir Ave. Pottstown 19464	610-705-3325
Joseph & Virginia FAY	562 E Cedarville Rd Pottstown, 19465	610-323-4544
Dennis LOSTINOWSKI	472 S. HANOVER ST "	" 970-3873
Jim Forams	EDWARDS & KELCEY 1247 Wains Ave W.P.S. Christian PA.	610-701-7000
DAVID DOWNS	SLHA	484-945-0200
CHRISL JOHNSON	1138 GULEN ST. POTTSWOWN	610-327-1961
Tom Hylton	222 Chestnut St. Pottstown	610-323-6837
Spencer	1550 Temple Rd. "	" " 1645
Alice Boatwright	811 Union St. Pottstown PA 19464	610-323-2687

Reconnections – Pottstown / North Coventry
 Public Meeting #1 January 20, 2004
 @ North Coventry Fire Hall

NAME	Address	PHONE NO.
CHRIS WASINGBURN	910 MALVERN DR POTTSTOWN 19465	610-326-7173
PAT WASHBURN	+	+
BEN PYFER	1224 S. KEIM ST "	610 326 8588
Jim Marks	1161 Marcus Dr " 19465	610 705-4014
Jack Bicher	1510 Chestnut Hill Road Pottstown 19465	



SIMONE JAFFE COLLINS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

11/19/03

Pottstown / North Coventry Reconnections
SJC# 03071.0

COMMITTEE MEETING #1 - MINUTES

Date/Time: 11/17/03, 9:00 AM

Location: Pottstown Borough Hall

In Attendance: Lynn Benensky – Pottstown Borough
Carolyn Blackwell – Urban Partners
Wayne Bowen – SRGA
Ronald Downie – Pottstown Borough
David Downs – SRGA
Jim Fairchild – Pottstown Borough
Jim Hartling – Urban Partners
Tom Hylton – Pottstown Borough
Robert Ihlein – Pottstown Borough
Jack Layne – Pottstown Borough
Gina Mangano – Montgomery County Planning
Nicole Keegan - SJC
Peter Simone - SJC
Steve Sinclair – SJC
Brian Styche – SJC

Purpose of Meeting: To introduce the consultant team to the Reconnections Committee, review the scope of work, set project dates, and review project objectives.

Notes:

1. Peter S. opened the meeting a brief introduction of the project. Meeting list and agenda were distributed.

Goals, Facts, and Concepts Discussion:

2. A list Goals, Facts, and Concepts discussed during the interactive portion of the meeting is listed below:

Goals

- Connect
- ID and Remove Barriers
- Create Pedestrian Friendly Environment
- Improve Entry Points to Pottstown
- Enforce Historic / Heritage Connections
- Recreation

Facts

- 12.5 Square Mile Area
- Two Water Trail Landings
- Bridges: Hanover Street, Route 100, Keim Street, Old Railroad Trestle
- Great Architecture
- No Sidewalks
- Village Atmosphere in Pottstown Landing and Kenilworth
- Existing Parks
- Pottstown & North Coventry Have New Zoning
- Mrs. Smith's
- Regional Planning Efforts
- Inter-governmental Agreement
- Montgomery County Open Space Initiative
- Joint Agreement with West Pottsgrove / Borough on Recreation
- Bypass Impedes Connection
- Highways are Barriers

Concepts

- "It's the River Stupid"
- Clear Views to Connect
- Pedestrian Amenities
- Events & Programming
- Encourage Activity Along River
- Support Mrs. Smith's Development
- Make Pedestrian Experience Nice
- Adjust Zoning
- Nighttime Experience
- Keep Folks Out of their Cars
- Full Interchange at 422
- River as Connector
- Examples of Mixed-Use
- Joint Funding
- Economic Development for Boroughs
- SRGA to call North Coventry to help set next Committee Meeting
- "Highway World" vs. Existing Town
- How Does North Coventry view Barriers?
- Involve PDIDA
- Trail Near Route 724
- Contact Mall Representatives
- South Pottstown Isolated by Roads
- Future Metro Connection
- Connect Parks
- Merchants' Association
- Recreation / Service Enterprises on River
- On-road Trails
- Railroad Track on North Side of River
- Outdoor Recreation Business Study (with Kutztown University)

3. Peter S. outlined the project goals and asked attendees for additional comments. Topics discussed included the political and physical obstacles of reconnecting to the river, creating a pedestrian-friendly environment, beautifying gateways to Pottstown, highlighting the community's heritage, and including recreational components.
4. A discussion of project facts led to the topic of bridges over the Schuylkill River. The Route 100 bridge was cited as a potential platform for a pedestrian connection. Attendees thought the Keim Street bridge was slated for replacement by Montgomery

County. SJC will investigate the status. Ronald D. stated that the Route 422 bridge is to have a pedestrian component in the future as part of the main spine of the Schuylkill River Trail.

5. The old railroad trestle, possibly owned by Pottstown Iron Works, will be investigated by SJC to determine ownership and any potential adaptive reuse. One of the bridge abutments was removed by the Keystone Boulevard construction work.
6. The lack of sidewalks in North Coventry Township and around North Coventry Mall was noted. Currently, residents cannot easily walk from their neighborhoods to the mall. Robert I. and Lynn B. suggested that Mall representatives, including the Merchants' Association, should be involved in the project.
7. Attendees mentioned the many interesting architectural styles found in Pottstown and North Coventry Township.
8. Peter S. mentioned that there is a village-like atmosphere in North Coventry Township's Pottstown Landing and Kenilworth sections.
9. Both North Coventry and Pottstown have recently undergone changes to their zoning ordinances.
10. Tom H. began a discussion of the redevelopment plan for the Mrs. Smith property. A concern about the preliminary sketch plan showing parking along the riverfront was raised. Peter S. suggested the owner of the Mrs. Smith property be shown examples of existing pedestrian-friendly developments.
11. There was difficulty in finding a good date regarding North Coventry committee members. Wayne B. and Rob I. will contact North Coventry Township representatives to find a good date for continuation of this meeting. **This meeting should be held before December 15th.**
12. Gina M. explained that both Pottstown and North Coventry participate in the Pottstown Regional Planning Effort. Though the plan has not been approved, Jack L. and Gina M. offered to forward SJC a summary of the work for review.
13. Council members raised the topic of Montgomery County money for greenway projects and connecting 3 Borough parks with funding from the Montgomery County Park program. Peter S. suggested the Borough should apply for joint funding from the State, and both counties. Jack L. mentioned the State's new economic development program for boroughs.
14. Peter S. shifted discussion to project concepts. The need for visual connections to the river was noted.
15. Jim H. noted a conflict between the "highway world" (future development trends) and developing a sense of community. The disconnection of pedestrians between North Coventry Mall and the surrounding villages of Pottstown Landing and South Pottstown was discussed. A meeting attendee stated that Routes 100 and 422 are also barriers to pedestrians.
16. Events and programming were seen as a way to encourage activity along the trail and riverfront. These events would also support development on the Mrs. Smith property.
17. Peter S. stated that SJC would evaluate current zoning for both Pottstown Borough and North Coventry Township and suggest adjustments as it relates to the reconnections project, if appropriate.
18. Peter S. highlighted the importance of lighting and encouraging nighttime use of trails.

19. The notion of a full interchange at Hanover Street and Route 422 was discussed. Jim F. believed a full interchange was not possible due to its proximity to the Rt. 100 interchange.
20. Peter S. mentioned that SJC would examine connections between North Coventry parks, the river, and river trail at the 422 Bridge as part of reconnections study.
21. The downtown Pottstown group PDIDA was mentioned as a party that should be involved in this project. SJC is to contact PDIDA.
22. Jim H. suggested recreation and service enterprises along the river as a possible concept to reconnect the surrounding communities to the river.
23. An on-road trail along River Road would be helpful in connecting Pottstown residents to North Coventry Mall.
24. Ronald D. suggested the OxyChem railroad line, once abandoned, will become an important piece of the Schuylkill River Trail.
25. SRGA members explained that their group is working with Kutztown University on a recreation business study along the river. To be completed in June 2004, the study will determine the potential for start-up enterprises and outfitters along the river. Currently, there are no rental businesses in the area.

Scope of Work:

26. A discussion and review of the scope of work followed. In regard to Item 1.9, Jim H. notified attendees that Urban Partners would not perform a comprehensive retail analysis of North Coventry Mall. Gina M. stated that Montgomery County Planning Commission is examining the mall from a regional standpoint and will put James H. in touch with the project manager for the study.

Next Steps:

27. The possibility of involving West Pottsgrove Township was mentioned since they conducted a joint recreation project with the Borough. Attendees were interested in the status of the vacant Flagg property. The SJC team is to contact West Pottsgrove.
28. Discussion of the project schedule centered on accommodating the schedules North Coventry Township committee members. The schedule will not be moved forward until this is done.
29. Lynn B. suggested Montgomery County Community College as a possible location for the public meetings.
30. Attendees also encouraged the involvement of Chester County Planning Commission. SJC is to contact the Chester County Planning Commission.
31. Jim H. indicated he would like to schedule a meeting with the owner of the Mrs. Smith property. The consultants will review the preliminary plan of the Mrs. Smith's property submitted to the Pottstown Borough. Post meeting note: A meeting has been scheduled for November 20th.
32. Rob I. will contact North Coventry Township officials to get involved in the upcoming meetings.
33. Rob I. Is to forward SJC a complete list of committee contact information.
34. SJC has forwarded a contract to Pottstown Borough. Rob I. to advise SJC of minor revisions.

35. Next Meeting: Committee Meeting #2: date and location to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,
SIMONE JAFFE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Nicole Keegan
Project Manager
cc: Reconnections Committee Members

Reconnections – Pottstown / North Coventry
Committee meeting #1 November 17, 2003

NAME	Email	PHONE NO.
Ronald C. Downie	Pottstown Borough Hall -	610 970 6511
DAVID DOWNS	ddowns@schuylkillriver.org	484-945-0200
Wayne Bowen	wbowen@schuylkillriver.org	"
Gina Mangano	gmangano@MAIL.MONTCOPA.ORG	610-218-3638
Lynn Benensky	lbenensky@pottstown.org	610 970-6512
ROBERT IHLEIN	RIHLEIN@POTTSTOWN.ORG	610-970-6515
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Carolyn Blackwell	cblackwell@urbanpartners.us	215-829-1906
James Hartling	jhartling@urbanpartners.us	215-829-1902
Jim Fairchild	jfairchild@pottstown.org	610-970-6508
Nicole Keegan		610-989-0348
Steve Sinclair		"
Peter Simone		"
Brian Styche		"
Jack Layno	jlayno@pottstown.org	610.970.6510



SIMONE JAFFE COLLINS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

12/2/03

Pottstown / North Coventry Reconnections Study
SJC# 03071.0

COMMITTEE MEETING #2 - MINUTES

Date/Time: 12/1/03, 9:00 AM

Location: North Coventry Township Municipal Building

In Attendance: Lynn Benensky – Pottstown Borough Staff
Kurt Zwinkl – Director, SRGA
David Downs – SRGA staff
Ronald Downie – Pottstown Borough Council
Bud Jenschke – North Coventry Township Supervisor (Jan)
Brian Mulchaney – North Coventry Mall Manager
Kevin Hennessey – Manager, North Coventry Township
Andy Paravis - North Coventry Township Supervisor
Jim Fairchild – Dir. Of Economic Development, Pottstown Bor.
Tom Hylton – Chair, Pottstown Borough Planning Commission
Robert Ihlein – Assistant Manager, Pottstown Borough
Gina Mangano – Montgomery County Planning Commission
Jim Hartling – Urban Partners
Nicole Keegan - SJC
Peter Simone - SJC

Purpose of Meeting: To introduce the consultant team to the Reconnections Committee, review the scope of work, set project dates, and review project objectives.

Notes:

1. Peter S. opened the meeting a brief introduction of the project. A preliminary project schedule, 11/17/03 meeting minutes, and agenda were distributed.
2. Peter S. reviewed the 11/17/03 meeting minutes. Peter S. suggested that economic development should be added to the project goal list developed at the 11/17/03 meeting.
3. A meeting attendee stated that the Keim Street Bridge is on the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's 12-year plan. Currently The County may be seeking proposals for the redesign of this bridge. **Gina M. will forward SJC a County contact for the Keim Street Bridge replacement.**

4. SJC and Urban Partners meet with the John Wolfington, the Mrs. Smith property owner, to review the preliminary sketch plan for that site. Peter S. stated that Wolfington would redesign the plan to conform closer to the Pottstown Borough ordinances. Peter S. stated that the new plan would show more mixed uses and would address the entire site. The commercial uses on the site would be convenience and “boutique” retail, not destination retail.
5. Kevin H. noted that North Coventry Township does not currently have any funding in place for open space acquisition. Most of the funding for the Township has been for preservation of agricultural land.
6. A meeting attendee stated the Chester County Planning Commission (CCPC) is currently working with North Coventry Township and seven other municipalities to identify existing resources including recreation / open space. CCPC is in the process of helping to fund the third phase of the improvements at Kenilworth Park. The contact at CCPC is David Ward. **SJC to contact David to inform him of the Reconnections Project and to share information.**
7. A meeting attendee noted that the residents on Riverside Drive (east of Keim Street) have expressed, in the past, that they do not want trails going through the backyard of their property along the river. One committee member suggested locating an on-road trail through this portion of the project to avoid conflicts with residents.
8. Andy P. suggested the possibility of a pedestrian trail crossing at the old railroad trestle located west (upstream) of the Route 100 Bridge.
9. Tom H. stated that this study in conjunction with the previous work done in Pottsgroves (John Potts Park Concept) would have a good potential for future funding by both Chester and Montgomery counties. There would be a continuous park / open space / trail system incorporating two counties and several municipalities.
10. Peter S. noted that having a joint county park could potentially take the burden off the municipalities for long-term maintenance of the park.
11. Bud J. noted that the Pottstown Area Council of Governments Agreement should be formalized within a year. This is the largest regional planning effort in the state. It was suggested that the potential for state funding is great. **Gina M. and Rob I. still need to forward to SJC basic info about the Council of Governments (promised at last meeting).**
12. Andy P. stated that the pedestrian / bike connection from downtown Pottstown to the North Coventry Mall should be an important component (objective) of this study.
13. Bud J. stated that North Coventry Township has been studying a pedestrian link from Hanover Street west to the old railroad trestle near the Schuylkill River. He noted that there are some alignment challenges along River Road.
14. Tom H. stated that there is the potential for an improved pedestrian link from downtown Pottstown to the Wal-Mart. In addition, there is a small public park behind the Wal-Mart.

15. Peter S. stated that portions of Route 724 appear to have large shoulders / Right-of-Way that could accommodate on-road trails. Andy P. stated that Route 724 near Kenilworth has limited space for on-road trails.
16. Ron D. noted that someone should contact the golf course on Route 724 to see if they have available land for open space / pedestrian link opportunities. **Kevin H. will get a contact at the golf course for SJC to contact so that SJC can walk the riverfront property owned by the golf course.**
17. Bud J. stated that **SJC should contact the North Coventry Township Open Space Review Board and Recreation Department** to coordinate their planning efforts with the Reconnections study. Contact names: Jay Erb and Chris ? (**Bud or Kevin please advise**).
18. Bud J. mentioned that the township Historical Commission has recommended that the (Pottstown Landing) Laurelwood Road residential structures should not be converted to sympathetic commercial uses (professional offices, etc.).
19. Laurelwood Road as it passes beneath Rt. 422 is vary narrow and may not present adequate room for pedestrians and vehicles. This link is a potentially very important link between Pottstown Landing and the North Coventry Mall. **SJC to assess.**
20. A meeting attendee noted that Pottstown Landing is on the National Historic Register. **SJC requests that Kevin H. forward to SJC a copy of National Register application which will indicate historic resources and basis for registry.**
21. Lynn B. stated that improved / clear signage is one way to promote pedestrian activity between the two communities.
22. Jim F. stated that PADIDA is focusing its efforts to facilitate development of businesses by creating / recruiting specific business to create a destination retail district. PADIDA concentrates its efforts on a 3-block area in the center of Pottstown. The boundaries are York / Evans to Hanover and Queen / King to Charlotte. **Jim F. – please forward contact name to SJC.**
23. Tom H. stated that it is very important to connect the two downtown areas of Pottstown and North Coventry to each other, the river, and parks.
24. Jim F. stated that local State Representatives should be informed of this study and included in the planning process. Everyone agreed they should be brought to the table once we have preliminary recommendations.
25. Brian M., manager of the North Coventry Mall stated that he is in favor of this study and would promote any type of improvements that would enhance the surrounding area. Pedestrian enhancements would promote mall business.
26. Andy P. stated that burying the utilities in North Coventry along Hanover Street would enhance the streetscape and overall appearance of the area.
27. Everyone agreed that the majority of the planning work would be completed on the North Coventry side of the river.

28. A meeting attendee mentioned the possibility of connecting to the Laurelwood canal located in North Coventry Township. Charlie Marshall is the owner of the Laurelwood canal property. This canal area is under an open space easement with Brandywine Conservancy. **Andy P. will speak with Mr. Marshall and advise him that SJC would like to visit the canal site and riverfront area of his property.**

Project Schedule:

29. The project schedule is as follows:

- a. Committee Meeting # 3:
Date / Location: 1/14/04, 7PM North Coventry Twp. Municipal Building
Purpose: Confirm goals and develop preliminary program-preview of agenda of Public Meeting #1.

- b. Public Meeting # 1:
Date / Location: 1/20/04, 7PM North Coventry Fire Hall
Purpose: Review project, discuss goals, develop / discuss program. Identify issues.

- c. Committee Meeting # 4:
Date / Location: 2/2/04, 7 PM North Coventry Twp. Municipal Building
Purpose: Review preliminary ideas and suggestions

- d. Committee Meeting # 5:
Date / Location: 3/1/04, 7PM North Coventry Twp. Mun Building
Purpose: Review refinements to concepts. Preview Public Meeting #2.

- e. Public Meeting #2:
Date and Location: 3/29/04, 7 PM Montgomery County Community College, Pottstown
Purpose: Present preliminary recommendations

- f. Committee Meeting # 6:
Date / Location: 4/5/04, 7PM North Coventry Twp. Municipal Building
Purpose: Review public meeting outcome. Discuss refinements to concepts.

- g. Public Meeting # 3:
Date and Location: Time and location to be determined (**week of April 19 or 26 suggested**)
Purpose: Present draft plan

30 day review period

30. Kevin H. is to verify if the North Coventry Fire Hall is available to hold the 1/20/04 public meeting. **Post Meeting Note: the Fire Hall location has been confirmed.**

31. Andy P. stated that a small group of citizens in South Pottstown has been previously formed for another project. He stated that he should be able to mobilize them again for this project.
32. Kevin H. stated that the area baseball leagues were seeking to expand and needed additional fields.
- 33. SJC will compose a draft press release prior to the 1st public meeting and circulate the press release (for comment and approval) to all committee members via email ASAP.**
- 34. Lynn will contact Montgomery County Community College to schedule the 2nd public meeting.**

Bold Items are action items. Please take action ASAP.

Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,
SIMONE JAFFE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Nicole Keegan

cc: Reconnections Committee Members

Reconnections - Pottstown / North Coventry
 Committee meeting #2 December 1, 2003
 North Coventry Township Municipal Building

SIMONE JAFFE COLLINS • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
 511 OLD LANCASTER AVENUE • BRIRWYN, PENNSYLVANIA 19312 (610) 889 0348

NAME	Email	PHONE NO.
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Yvonne Simuk	SRC	610 889-0348
Nicole Krickel	STC	" "
Jim Hortling	Urban Partners	215-829-1902
Ann Mangano	Partnership for...	610-278-2258
Lynn Benensky	lbenensky@pottstown.org	610 970 6512
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Kevin Howdressing	Twpingr@Northcoventry-us	610-333-1694
ANDY PARAVIS	APARAVIS@AOL.COM	610-327-8508
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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

1/27/04

Pottstown / North Coventry Reconnections Study
SJC# 03071.0

COMMITTEE MEETING #3 - MINUTES

Date/Time: 1/14/03, 7:00 PM

Location: North Coventry Township Municipal Building

In Attendance: Ronald Downie – Pottstown Borough Council
Bud Jenschke – North Coventry Township Supervisor
Andy Paravis - North Coventry Township Supervisor
Robert Ihlein – Assistant Manager, Pottstown Borough
Kevin Hennessey –Manager, North Coventry Township
Tom Hylton – Chair, Pottstown Borough Planning Commission
Judy Comiskoik - PDIDA
Nicole Keegan - SJC
Peter Simone - SJC

Purpose of Meeting: Review project goals, site analysis findings, and review preliminary site recommendations.

Notes:

1. Peter S. opened the meeting with a brief introduction of the project. A meeting agenda, a draft agenda for public meeting # 1, and an outline list of site analysis findings and preliminary recommendations were distributed.
2. Peter S. reviewed the draft agenda for Public Meeting # 1. PS stated that Simone Jaffe Collins will review the project process, give a general overview of the project, and review project analysis findings. The remainder of the meeting will be an open discussion that allows the audience to comment on ideas and / or concerns they have with this project. SJC will use the “card-technique” to solicit ideas from the audience.
3. Bud J. will start the first public meeting and introduce the project and committee members.
4. Nicole K. stated that she is in contact with the Mercury Newspaper. The Mercury hopes to put an article in either the Sunday or Monday edition of the paper. The Mercury intends to have a reporter at the meeting. Post Meeting Note: The Mercury ran an article and an editorial review in the Sunday, January 18, 2004 edition of the paper.
5. **Rob I. suggested that Lynn B. contact the local cable network to see if they can broadcast the public meetings.**
6. Peter S. stated it SJC’s understanding that the Keim Street Bridge is not currently on PennDOT’s 12-year plan.

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7. A meeting attendee mentioned that Montgomery County is about to release their Transportation Plan. The first public meeting will be held on February 2, 2004 at Upper Merion Township.
8. Peter S. noted that SJC and Urban Partners met with the John Wolfington, the Mrs. Smith property owner, to review the preliminary sketch plan for that site. Revisions to the sketch plan have been made since that meeting.
9. **Andy P. will contact Robert Kerns, Montgomery County Planning Commission, and have Robert forward SJC the following information:**
 - a. **Electronic GIS format: 2003 Land Use data for the project area**
 - b. **Written documentation on the Council of Governments**
 - c. **Regional Planning Commission study information analysis findings and recommendations. (Preferable format: electronic GIS)**
 - d. **Current census information**
10. Ron D. suggested that the consultants address the islands located on the Schuylkill River in the vicinity of the Keim Street Bridge. Peter S. stated that he is in the process of contacting the PA Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation and the Army Corp of Engineers to see who owns the islands and if dredging in the vicinity of the islands might mitigate flooding.
11. A meeting attendee noted that the park located at W. Main Street, York Street, Coyne Alley, and River Road is called Badorf Field. North Coventry Township Committee member to verify.
12. Peter S. stated that creating a "mixed-use" zoning in Pottstown Landing might benefit this community. Bud J. stated that the North Coventry Township Historical Commission wanted to keep the Pottstown Landing area zoned residential. Bud agreed that including office use in this area could help this community succeed economically.
13. A meeting attendee noted the there is bike trail signage / designation in Pottstown on High Street for the Montgomery County Bike Trails. The other Montgomery County bike trails in the study area do not have signage.
14. Tom H. noted that the relocation of Industrial Boulevard on the SJC Existing and Planned Transportation Map should not be designated as a planned improvement; rather it should be listed as a possible improvement.
15. Peter S. mentioned that SJC spoke to PennDOT concerning the feasibility of decreasing the cartway widths of the vehicular lanes and increasing the size of the sidewalks. PennDOT stated that it could be feasible depending on the traffic for this bridge. Peter S. noted that increasing the pedestrian sidewalks on the bridge should be considered as a possible recommendation.
16. Tom H. stated that Borough has studied resizing the curb radii at the intersection of Hanover Street and Industrial Boulevard / College Drive.
17. Kevin H. stated that the North Coventry Township safety officer studied the possibility of creating one-way traffic in Pottstown Landing on West Main Street and on River Road. The safety officer also suggested creating a roadway that that parallels Route 422, starting at South Hanover Street directly across from the Route 422 westbound ramp and ending along River Road just east of the Route 100 overpass.
18. Peter S. stated that one trail recommendation might be to create a trail that follows the Schuylkill River following River Road in North Coventry Township. The trail could connect from the Hanover Street Bridge and follow the Schuylkill River to Laurel Locks Farm. In order to do this it might be necessary to decrease the cartway width of River Road and make it one-way to accommodate the proposed trail. In addition, the trail

would go through private property, so an easement would be necessary through this portion.

19. A meeting attendee suggested exploring the possibility of creating one-way traffic on River Road. In addition, the attendee suggested that the one-way traffic should be east bound.
20. A meeting attendee stated that motorists travel above the speed limit on River Road. Traffic calming devices should be recommended for this road.
21. Andy P. stated that one visual enhancement for the North Coventry side of Hanover Street should be to bury the underground utility poles. Peter S. stated burying utility poles is very expensive.
22. Judy C. stated the building located in South Pottstown on the east side of Hanover Street just before the Hanover Street Bridge is visually unattractive.
23. A few temporary recommendations for the Keim Street Bridge were discussed. Recommendations discussed included: re-painting the bridge, adding pedestrian lighting, lighting the bridge so that the bridge truss is illuminated, and opening views from the Schuylkill River to the bridge.
24. Peter S. stated that SJC is attempting to determine who owns the abandoned railroad trestle. The railroad trestle could be a pedestrian link between the two communities.
25. Nicole K. stated that SJC recommends two pedestrian trail connections to link Pottstown to the Coventry Mall. The first trail would use River Road and Laurelwood Road through Pottstown Landing. The second trail connection uses a Hanover Street and Route 724 through Pottstown Landing. A committee member thought that most people walking from Pottstown to the Mall would use the River Road trail connection.
26. PennDOT is currently studying Route 422 for highway improvements. SJC will consult with the PennDOT study to see if the improvements for 422 can be designed with consideration to the Reconnections trail improvements where Route 422 intersects with Laurelwood Road and Hanover Street in North Coventry Township. SJC will also contact PennDOT to verify the timeframe of this study.
27. DVRPC is conducting a transportation study for the Route 724 corridor. SJC will contact DVRPC concerning this study.

Next Committee Meeting: #4 –Monday, February 2, 7 PM @ North Coventry Township Municipal Building. The purpose of the meeting is to review preliminary recommendations and discuss the outcome of the first public meeting.

Bold Items are action items. Please take action ASAP.

Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,
SIMONE JAFFE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



Nicole Keegan

cc: Reconnections Committee Members