**Questions 3) Topic: Management Options**

***What role(s) should various organizations such as NPA, Arch Conservancy, NPLT, and the NPS play in the future of the site?***

Notes recorded on flip-charts:

* NPS has the capacity/skill/ability to manage and coordinate all of the groups. No other group has ability.
* Partner with Lincoln NHA
* Established in 2009 and interprets the life and times of Abraham Lincoln
* New Philadelphia serves as a gateway to cities like Quincy where the trail is routed
* Site should be primarily managed by the NPS
* People want passport stamps
* Opportunities (organizations) are here to help but need the help of the NPS
* Seek grant opportunities to fund certain things
* Various organizations can serve as consultants
* Organize youth
* Camps
* volunteers
* Living history days
* Have activities for kids and parents will come
* Additional archeological work
* Participants supported additional archeological work; with the caveat that the purpose of the work was clearly defined and there were specific questions that needed to be answered.
* Could be a draw to have people come watch
* Continue partnerships with Universities
* Importance of NPS coming in over the top to pull together various local entities and their great work
* NPS can preserve resources
* Provide additional signage/improved interpretation
* Individuals are getting old and tired. Organizations currently engaged lack vitality to continue for the long term and need more than just a few dedicated individuals to carry on
* Only NPS can provide the prominence the site deserves
* Other groups would continue to support
* State does not have capacity to assume the site
* Culture of volunteerism
* BSA
* Historic groups
* Focus on recruiting volunteers
* Pike County is sparsely populated
* The site is important to develop something to bring in more involvement
* Look at possible partnerships opportunities
* African American Museum in Springfield
* Pike County Historical Society
* All Wars Museum
* Continue to partner with the Business Community to provide resources to support the effort
* Sponsorships
* Are there options for sponsorship which are appropriate
* Interested members are already sponsoring plots in the Townsite – the cost is $1000 for one lot, $1,846 for two
* NPS needs to take direct management of the site
* Theme studies could lead to opportunities for local organizations to be involved
* The site is only an hour from Springfield Lincoln Home NHS
* Take advantage of NPS expertise in close proximity (Lincoln Home & Arch)
* Take advantage of the NHA and corridor from Springfield to Hannibal
* Revenue from the park would offset concern of increased taxes
* Does mix add complication
* Explore state supported programs
* City of Barry could help leverage people through volunteer programs
* Senior work programs (IL exp. Works)
* Youth work programs
* John Wood Community College has an RSVP – paid volunteer program for retirees
* Quincy Convention Bureau
* IL office of Tourism
* The site is in an important Heritage Corridor between Hannibal and Springfield – take advantage of the looking for Lincoln
* The site could have an old fashioned garden maintained by a local garden club
* Birding, butterflies, etc. could also be an attraction
* The family that owns the land north of New Philadelphia Townsite is not interested in selling at this time. They are concerned about a government land grab.

**Observations from the public meeting listening session on management options:**

*Everyone that spoke during the listening session expressed their support for the NPS to play the lead role in the management of New Philadelphia Townsite. Over and over we heard the NPS was the only organization involved with the capacity, skill and ability to protect, interpret, and manage the site, and coordinate the other interested groups. Several people expressed concern that the New Philadelphia Association and others involved with the site could not offer long term protection or the quality of interpretation that the NPS could.*

*Ideas were generated about what groups may be able to offer volunteer or financial support but no entity or organization, aside from the NPS, was identified as having capacity to manage the site. Participants expressed concern that the individuals involved were getting old and tired. Organizations currently engaged lacked vitality to continue for the long term and needed more than just a few dedicated individuals to carry on.*

*Participants suggested partnering with the National Heritage Area to improve awareness of the site, and taking advantage of state and local programs for volunteer support, grants, etc. They wanted the organizations currently involved in the site to serve as consultants and assist the NPS in whatever capacity they had.*

*Though it was not asked, participants offered several suggestions about what they would like to see at the site and what they thought might draw tourists to the site including:*

* *public gardens*
* *youth camps*
* *living history*
* *archeological digs*
* *bird and butterfly watching*
* *many ideas centered around engaging youth*

*One person expressed concern about the site causing an increase in their taxes. Other participants responded by saying that the additional tax revenue generated by the site would offset any increase. There was a strong public perception that the site would be a significant economic driver for the area.*

*The landowners whose property was north and adjacent to the site were supportive of the New Philadelphia Townsite becoming a national park but expressed concern that their property (that included Frank and Solomon McWorter’s home sites) would be taken through eminent domain and a government land grab. They expressed several times that they had no interest in selling their land.*