

# Historical Commission Minutes

## January 17, 2017

Commissioners in attendance: Maureen Noonan, Kristine Gordon-Watson, Diana Cormack  
Guests: Marty Raser, Alison Mallamo, JoAnn Domanski

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

### 1. Minutes

The November 15, 2016 minutes were approved.

### 2. HC Vacancies and Positions

The BOS on January 3, 2017, reappointed Ann Bedrick, Kristine Gordon-Watson and Diana Cormack. They appointed Gary Wills to fill a one year unexpired term.

The Historical Commission voted for Maureen Noonan for Chairwoman and Kristine Gordon-Watson for Vice Chairwoman and Secretary.

### 3. Info Received about Saving Endangered Historic Resources

From Township Solicitor Oeste: Mr. Montgomery, the owner of the barn at 3463 Conestoga Road (HRMap #275), has put up a perimeter fence around this dangerous property. The Chester County Court judge who reviewed this case (unfortunately) ordered that Mr. Montgomery demolish the barn by April 30, 2017 or be held in contempt.

Alison Mallamo, History Society, reported that to her delight, the owner of Hause's Store (HRMap #29) did contact her about this property's history. For more information, Alison contacted April Frantz of the PA State Historic Preservation Office. Ms. Frantz let Alison know that they do have a resource file about this property, which includes a 1972 version of its PHMC Register form, photos, and notes, possibly from 1959, which accompanied the Historic American Buildings Survey documentation.

Research on this unique local historic site continues.

In answer to a concern, Kristine provided information about an apparently early 19th century structure, located on RT. 100. This building, identified as HRMap #82, was originally a grist mill. More info will be sought.

The little-known, but apparently useful, Blighted and Abandoned Properties Conservatorship Law, PA Act 135, was discussed. This law has been used to save various buildings in Philadelphia, as Inga Saffron highlighted in her Dec. 15, 2016 *Philadelphia Inquirer* article. Info about this law can be seen on this site: [http://www.planningpa.org/presentations09/housing\\_alliance\\_of\\_pa.pdf](http://www.planningpa.org/presentations09/housing_alliance_of_pa.pdf)

### 4. ENT Historic House Plaques

Kristine reported that Ann Bedrick has made progress in researching the houses involved.

### 5. PASHPO meeting

In conjunction with Chester County's Landscape 3 project, PA State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO) sponsored one of the meetings of this project on November 17, 2016 at Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia. Commissioner Maureen Noonan said the main emphasis that day was promoting community education of the value of older structures. Among topics mentioned was the Philadelphia tax abatement program which some new construction can receive. At present, this tax break can hasten the demolition rather than rehabilitation of old buildings to build new. The importance of educating communities about the historic surroundings and their value in appealing ways was highlighted. To this point, the questions were raised about if and how East Nantmeal's history should be more actively promoted, perhaps by having the East Nantmeal publications available at the Hankin Library and elsewhere. Inquiries will be made.

## **6. HC's page on the ENT Website**

Thank you, Web Manager Ed Bacon; our Agenda is now on the Township Calendar. In addition, the HC page is now accessible on the township's website, listed as "Historical Commission" under the "About Us" tab on the top menu bar. The HC webpage continues to progress.

## **7. Correspondence**

Karen Marshall sent a letter stating that this summer's Town Talks/Village Walks will focus on the commemoration of the Battle of the Brandywine, 1777.

Dan Graham, when asked how Northern Chester County could tie in to that theme, stated the following:

Both Reading and Warwick were making cannon during the 1777 invasion. You could easily come up with a program to cover that. The cannon burial story at Warwick is fascinating, Old, Potts and Rutter were completely supporting the American cause. The story would be where the valley was during the invasion.

Dan Graham corresponded to encourage the reinstalling of the no-longer-posted marker of Coventry Forge, a topic which surfaced during his October 2016 talk at the township building. This marker was forged in 1910 for the Chester County Historical Society and is presently stored in the area by the County. Plans are to make contacts to determine how and where this marker should be returned to its original location.

Karen Marshall also sent the flyer to sign up for the CCHPN workshop at the Soledad Mansion, Exton, January 21, 2017. "CCHPN Mid-Winter Workshop: Saving Neglected Buildings" is the topic. Several people plan to attend.

JoAnn Domanski notified the HC via email in December that she is available to join the HC.

## **8. Additional Items**

*The Forgers'* addendum copies are ready to pick up at Smale's Printing, which reprinted *The Forgers* with the addition of a new forward page and a two page addendum by Dan Graham. This addendum, along with the other books sold by the History Society, will be available for purchase at the township building during office hours.

From the History Society, the new book purchasing policy is as follows:

During regular business hours, the ENT office staff will show any interested parties where the books are located in the Historical Commission showcase in the lobby. The self-serve info needed to buy these books is in a marked binder put together by the History Society.

Thank you, Alison!

The 1910 Warwick Furnace marker has been successfully restored to its original state and will be installed again at Warwick Furnace. A couple East Nantmeal residents were instrumental in this project.

Karen Marshall has asked the HC about sponsoring an event related to the 1777 Battle of the Brandywine theme and this area's contribution as part of the Town Talks/Village Walks 2017. HC will continue to discuss participating in this event.

The HC briefly discussed ideas for potential 2017 speakers. Suggestions needed!

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Kristine Gordon-Watson, Secretary