

Historical Commission Meeting Minutes August 15, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM.

Commissioners present are in bold: **Evie Baird**, Ann Bedrick, **Diana Cormack**, Mark Dzuban, **Kristine Gordon-Watson**, **Maureen Noonan**, Gary Wills.

Guests/Volunteers present: Marty Raser, Pat Traphagen, Alison Mallamo.

1. Meeting Minutes Action

The July 18, 2017 minutes were approved.

2. Town Tours, 2017

This Thursday East Nantmeal will take part in Town Tours and Village Walks, Tour #11, an August 17 lecture at Warwick County Park, and optional self-drive tour, focusing on General Washington's encampment in this area after the Battle of the Clouds and the role the region and its resources played in the American Revolution. A schedule for the event was discussed, with volunteers Kristine, Evie, Diana, Alison, Pat, and JoAnn arriving at 4:00 PM to join Karen Marshall (County Town Tours Coordinator), Ann, and Maureen. Registration will be in Pavilion 3, with the "sold-out" lecture (with waiting list) at 5:30 PM in the inside meeting room and refreshments and follow-up at 7:00 PM. There will be at least four people in the pavilion to help with registration and the sale of books. It was decided that only individuals who registered would be given a map of the self-driving tour. Instructions for participants not to exit their vehicles, nor delay the driving queue by stopping, will be on the map. CCHPN will provide refreshments, and Karen Marshall will be in the pavilion during the lecture so volunteers can attend. Commission members will introduce the speakers, Andrew Pitz, Daniel Graham, and Michael Harris and hopefully keep them to their time limits.

3. Info about 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. Although the Chester County Court judge who reviewed this case unfortunately ordered the barn removed by April 30, the owner has yet to comply. Solicitor Oeste had been in contact with the Court about the still ongoing situation, which could lead to the Township's placing a lien. One last hope is that, if the barn's walls cannot be stabilized reasonably, at least the barn's stone would remain local, ideally used in restoration projects. There was no update at the August 9 BoS meeting.

A History Society member talked with the owner about stabilizing the Jacob Hause Store (HRMap #29) and helping with conservation and cleanup.

Also, as per recent Zoning Officer's reports, the Jacob Hause House's previous porch, probably itself a 20th century replacement, has to be replaced due to serious snow storm damage. (Again, the Historical Commission was not involved even as an

advisory partner, as per the Ordinance.) The new porch will have standard wood posts, etc., instead of posts documented as appropriate for this 1830 house or the probably original pent roof mentioned in the "PA Historical Sites..." 1972 form. Its HR description will have to be updated to show the recent changes. (Please note: The HC can be contacted to review Historic Resources Survey information and discuss their findings with owners as they seek to preserve their structures' historical integrity during the restoration/maintenance process.)

4. PennDOT 106 Consulting Party Meeting

The minutes from the June 12, PennDOT hosted Section 106 consulting party meeting concerning the Mansion Road bridge, Browers Bridge (key#000086), were again discussed.

PennDOT has changed the instructions for citizens, concerned about the bridge. They are to write to their supervisors who will communicate with PennDOT. Several attendees were concerned about whether the curve in the bridge will be retained in a renovation. Due to various major concerns, the Warwick Township BoS has requested another Section 106 meeting, as has the Warwick Township Historical Commission. The single meeting did not meet their standards for the HARB (Historical and Architectural Review Board) which exists in Warwick.

5. Correspondence

Two correspondence items were received but not discussed at this meeting.

6. Historical Commission Membership

Pat Traphagen expressed interest in joining and will write letters.

7. ENT Historic House Plaques

More work at the Archives is scheduled after August 17, 2017.

8. Fall Speakers

Michael Harris will speak Tuesday, October 17, 7:00 PM, about 1777's Battle of the Clouds, the topic of his upcoming book.

9. Additional items

The topic of more damage to the Iron Bridge and possible preventative measures was brought up and discussed during Public Comments at the July 12, 2017 BoS meeting but not noted in this section of this meeting's minutes.

The application for The Cupola Furnace District will be reviewed at the next meeting. We will also plan our participation in Community Day at Warwick Park, Saturday, September 23.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Kristine Gordon-Watson, Secretary

Our next meeting is Tuesday, September 19, 2017, 7:00 PM.