

Historical Commission Minutes

July 18, 2017

Commissioners in attendance: Maureen Noonan, Ann Bedrick, Kristine Gordon-Watson, Evie Baird, Gary Wills

Guests: Marty Raser, JoAnn Domanski, Tori Lingg, Pat Traphagen, Alison Mallamo, Floyd Walters and, from Warwick Township Historical Commission and HARB, Karl Snyder, Linda Walters, and Jean Sauer.

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

1. Minutes

The June 20, 2017 minutes were approved with the addition of Pat Traphagen to the list of volunteers helping with the August 17, 2017 lecture and self-driving tour.

2. PennDOT Section 106 Consulting Party Meeting

The minutes from the June 12 PennDOT Section 106 consulting party meeting concerning the National Register and ENT Historic Resource Mansion Road Bridge, aka Brewer's Bridge (key#000086), were reviewed and discussed. Linda Walters, Ann, and Maureen have taken many photos, and Linda a video, of the structure. Both commissions questioned the need for PennDOT's extensive rehabilitation plans given the paucity of daily traffic, etc. and will seek independent engineering opinions and further information. Immediately Gary, via his phone, forwarded PennDOT's evaluation to his cousin, a bridge engineer for feedback. Linda's video will follow. Historic masonry experts will also be consulted. To emphasize the importance of Brower's Bridge to the community, everyone was encouraged to send a personal letter to Mr. Basalik at PennDOT. Whether all neighboring parties were invited to the June 12 meeting was questioned. Names of other landowners proximate to the bridge will be informed, and the French and Pick Trust (and possibly Green Valleys and Natural Lands Trust) should be added to the Sec 106 list because of the creek's Exceptional Value status.

3. Town Tours, August 2017

East Nantmeal will take part in Town Tours and Village Walks, Tour #11, an August 17 lecture at Warwick County Park with 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. Registration will be at a pavilion, with the lecture at 5:30 PM at the inside meeting room and refreshments and follow-up at 7:00 PM. There will be three people in the pavilion to help with registration and the sale of books. The HC decided that only individuals who registered would be given maps 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.

4. 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 placing a lien. One hope is that at least the barn's stone would remain local, ideally used in restoration projects.

Alison will talk to the owner of Hause's Store (HRMap #29) about help with conservation and cleanup. At the July 12, 2017 BOS meeting, questions were asked about 102 James Mill Road (HRMap#42). The township engineer said the structure was stable.

5. Correspondence

Maureen received an email reply from April E. Frantz, National Register Reviewer/ Eastern Region, PA State Historic Preservation Office, which included the original 1981 nomination forms, prepared by Estelle Cremers and others, of the 172 acre Cupola Furnace District. The completion of this nomination will be investigated.

6. CCHPN Volunteer Recognition Celebration

Evie, Pat, and Maureen had the pleasure of attending this annual CCHPN event at the Washington in Historic Yellow Springs (HYS) June 28. HYS Executive Director Eileen McMonagle opened with an impressive presentation recounting the unique history of Yellow Springs, which involves the Lenni Lenapes, American Revolutionaries, mineral water-takers, P.T. Barnum's entertainers, orphans of Civil War soldiers, PA Academy of the Fine Arts notable instructors and students, Good News Film Productions, *The Blob*, up to its current HYS status. Recognized for their historic preservation efforts were Pennsbury Township, Donald Hannum, West Goshen HC, Schuylkill Township HC, and HYS. During the annual accomplishments Roll Call of the county's HCs and HARBs, ENT's HC shared news of the development and addition of its webpage to the township's website. And kudos to HC Member and CCHPN Board Member Ann Bedrick for her wonderful sketches of local historic buildings, which again graced the night's program on its cover and inside pages as well as on the awards.

7. ENT Historic House Plaques

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

8. Fall Speakers

Maureen will ask Michael Harris to speak on his new book about The Battle of the Clouds in October.

9. Additional items

Alison brought the 1883 Nantmeal Village PA Cancel Post Card which Gary Wills found and she bought on eBay. Ann Bedrick quickly identified the writer of the

postcard as her great-great grandfather's sister, who was also ENT Supervisor Ed Loomis' great-great grandmother.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.
Kristine Gordon-Watson, Secretary