

Historical Commission Minutes

September 19, 2017

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

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

Volunteers/Guests: JoAnn Domanski, Peggy Hartzell, Alison Mallamo, Marty Raser

1. Minutes

The August 15, 2017 minutes were approved after minor corrections.

2. HC Report, BoS meeting Sept. 13, 2017

Maureen presented the following during "Committee Reports":

1. The HC met August 15, 2017. Minutes will be available on the township's website along with other information.
2. East Nantmeal's Town Tour event August 17 at Warwick Park was a success. The program about the local furnace area, especially during the Revolutionary War involved three speakers and was attended by 68. Thanks to all volunteers and park staff for their help.
3. PennDOT will have another Section 106 meeting about the rehabilitation of Browers Bridge on Mansion Road sometime this fall.
4. The Historical Commission will participate in Community Day at Warwick Park Saturday, September 23.
5. During our next meeting Oct. 17, military historian Michael Harris will speak about The Battle of the Clouds and the Continental Army in Chester County in 1777.

2. Town Tours Aug. 17, 2017

We briefly discussed this successful event. The following review by Maureen appeared in the fall *New Sweetwater Reporter*:

East Nantmeal Historical Commission sponsored "one of the best ever" Annual Town Tours' events early Thursday evening, August 17, at Warwick County Park. This summer's program honored the 240th Anniversary of the Campaign of 1777. Sixty-five pre-registrants and wait-listers enjoyed the presentation about

the local furnace region during the Revolutionary War in the Park's meeting room.

First Andy Pitz, Executive Director of the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust, provided a review of the Trust's role in protecting and preserving the Warwick Furnace site for the future, including current steps to stabilize what remains of the stone buildings. Next Dan Graham, Potts-Rutter Family Historian, explained the importance of Northern Chester County's furnace region during the Revolution. Military historian and author Mike Harris documented The Battle of the Clouds and the movements of the Armies in Chester County. Finally Ann Bedrick, historian, artist, and HC member, introduced her artful and informative map "A Short Sojourn in Iron Country" for the attendees to follow on their own afterwards. In addition, about forty others signed in for self-driving tour maps. A great evening of celebrating the unique history and beauty of this special area of the county!

Thanks to all who made this event happen, including HC members Evie Baird, Ann Bedrick, Diana Cormack, and Kristine Gordon-Watson, Maureen Noonan; East Nantmeal volunteers JoAnn Domanski, Alison Mallamo, and Pat Traphagen; Ranger Jay Erb and the Warwick County Park Staff; and Chester County Heritage Preservation Coordinator Karen Marshall.

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 placing a lien. One hope is that at least the barn's stone would remain local, ideally used in restoration projects. At the September 13 BOS meeting, Oeste volunteered this same information. At the June and July BoS meetings he had asked for names of parties interested in the stone. Mark Dzuban, present tonight, suggested David and Meryl Stoltzfus who work in old stone in our township. The Stoltzfus Brothers will call the township.

No update on Hause's Store (HRMap #29) was discussed, although research, etc. is ongoing.

4. PennDOT 106 Consulting Party Meeting

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

In response to Warwick Township BoS's request, another Section 106 meeting will be scheduled by PennDOT.

A note from PennDOT requesting a communication format:

"We respectfully ask that one individual represent an organization for Section 106 consultation. This is noted on the Section 106 consulting party response form that you completed. We were informed that some members of the public would like to comment on the project. The PennDOT project manager, Kristin Caparra, requests that comments and concerns from the general public be conveyed to East Nantmeal Township and Warwick Township. The municipalities will in turn convey those comments to PennDOT."

5. Community Day at Warwick Park Saturday, September 23

We planned our annual participation in Community Day this Saturday at Warwick Park, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. Our table space will be combined with the EAC; Peggy Hartnell will again bring her community map; and the Commission and History Society will have books and maps on the iron industry as well as charcoal and iron artifacts. Ann will also supply a tent. Diana, Kristine, JoAnn, and Maureen will also staff the booth.

6. Correspondence

After the Town Tour event, Maureen responded to a request for information about Dan Graham from Ruth of Elverson:

Hello, Ruth,

Maureen Noonan, East Nantmeal Historical Commission, here, as per Karen Marshall's referral, about Dan Graham, Potts-Rutter family and iron historian. Dan has researched and written many articles about these families and their iron furnace endeavors.

Just heard that Dan is speaking again at Warwick County Park, Sun., Oct 15, 2:00 PM: "Pig Iron to Plate: Celebrating Our Iron Heritage," in case you might be interested.

Thank-you emails were sent to Andrew Pitz, Dan Graham, and Michael Harris, and all three quickly responded positively within an hour-- Whoa!

An email of thanks was also sent to J. Erb and the Warwick County Park Staff.

7. ENT Historic House Plaques

Tyler ordered a plaque from the History Society for 1789 and work this month at the Archives brought Kristine's house back to 1740. Mark thought a marker for the 1777 Revolutionary gravesite on James Mill Road would be nice. Unfortunately the gravesite is in Warwick Township.

8. Fall Speakers

Michael Harris will speak Tuesday, October 17 at 7:00 PM about the Battle of the Clouds and the Continental Army in Chester County in 1777. Refreshments will be provided--cider and cookies were suggested. Maureen will contact the township office about securing Michael Harris's \$100 honorarium.

9. Additional items

WOW! Just saw the news on the ENT website about the domain name change! And no popping ads to be seen either! Thanks to all who made these improvements possible!

A State Historic Preservation workshop will be at the Chester County Historical Society Monday, Sept. 25, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM. Noted historical architect and Charlestown Township HARB member Dale Frens will explain how a township's HC can develop and use guidelines to encourage local historic preservation. Maureen might attend.

Marty added to the archives the brochure, notes, registration pages, etc., from the HC's 2017 Town Tour.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Kristine Gordon-Watson, Secretary

Our next meeting Tuesday, October 17, 2017, at 7:00 PM, will star speaker Michael Harris.