

Historical Commission Minutes

January 18, 2018

(The Tuesday, January 16, 2017 meeting was rescheduled to Thursday due to inclement weather threat.)

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

Volunteers/Guests present tonight: Alison Mallamo, JoAnn Domanski, Peggy Hartzell, Tori Lingg

The 2018 HC reorganization meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM. Maureen was reappointed Chairperson, and Kristine, Secretary.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM.

1. Previous Meeting Minutes

The November 21, 2017 minutes were approved.

2. HC Reports at BoS meetings: December 2017, January 2018

Maureen presented HC info during "Committee Reports" times. HC-relevant items from these meetings are also included.

Dec 13, 2017

The HC met Tuesday, Nov. 21. Approved minutes of this meeting will be posted on the HC page on the Township's website. After the meeting was adjourned, several HC members and attendees went to see the play reading "Jenny..." at West Caln Township.

Items from BoS meeting: The Zoning Officer related from the "Permits Processed" section of his building and zoning report that the historic barn (HRMap#001) at French Creek Golf Course is undergoing "Renovation" for use as a "ceremony room."

Jan 2, 2018

The HC did not meet in December and will meet in January.

Items from BoS meeting: During the 2018 organization meeting, Evie and Maureen were reappointed by BoS to three year terms on the HC.

During the regular meeting, the Zoning Officer related from the "Inspections Conducted" section of his report that the barn(HRMap#001) at the French Creek

Golf Course had separate "Footer" and "Slab" inspections as part of its renovation "just for ceremonies."

Also, Tori Lingg brought up her concern about an 18th century center hall stone house on Millard Rd. (HRMap#019), which she reported as "neglected." The BoS instructed the zoning officer to drive by this property.

3. Reports on the Play "Jenny..." and HC Involvement in Retirement Lunch

As reported above, after the HC meeting ended, several HC members and attendees went to see the play reading of "Jenny (A Play of Life)" by Gene Delaplane at West Caln Township Historical Society Meeting November 21, 2017. As Delaplane explained, he was inspired by the letters exchanged by Ben (aka "Benny") Franklin and his youngest sister Jane (aka "Jenny"). Although most of Ben's notes have been preserved, unlike most of his much less famous sister's, the siblings' relationship, personalities, and experiences can, nevertheless, be seen in what did survive. Delaplane developed these letters, encapsulating the years 1712 –1786, into a narrative play, with lines of the parts read by Delaplane and others. The audience enjoyed this informal biographical presentation centering on this well-known founding father and his little-known sister. For more about this topic, also based on Franklin writings and much research, check out Jill Lepore's well-received 2014 Jane Franklin biography, *Book of Ages*.

Ann Bedrick presented the ENHC's "note of service commendation" card and proclamation that she artistically designed to Jim Jenkins at the December 19, 2017 lunch celebrating his 18+ years of service to the township. Ann, Evie, Maureen, and Kristine attended.

4. 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 January BoS meeting, Oeste volunteered that his office had received a call from Montgomery; he will return the call.

Alison informed us that she has received a quote of approximately \$3,000 to shrink-wrap Hause's Store (HRMap #029) in an attempt to at least stabilize the historic building as is. No action was taken.

5. Browers Bridge PennDOT Project Update

The minutes from the June 12, PennDOT-hosted Section 106 consulting party meeting, concerning the Nationally Registered, stone-with-brick-lined-arch 1904 Brower's Bridge (HRMap#179) (key#000086) on Mansion Rd. (a state road), were again discussed, along with subsequent PennDOT communication. The HC, along with Warwick Township, is concerned about the negative effects of the proposed plan would have on this historically intact bridge, which is located within the Reading Furnace National Historic District.

In an August 31, 2017 response to Warwick Township BoS's meeting request of July 31, 2017, and the Warwick HC's of August 4, 2017, PennDOT emailed that a "follow-up" Section 106 meeting would be scheduled "late in the fall." No further communication has been received, and this meeting has yet to happen.

Karen Marshall met with EN (Kristine and Maureen) and Warwick (Karl Snyder, Linda Walters and Jean Sauer) Historical Commissions on Dec.13, 2017. Karen documented the HCs' positions on the bridge and will seek clarification of PennDOT's modis operandi.

6. Correspondence

An email from Karen Marshall, Heritage Preservation Coordinator, came about the Saturday, Jan. 20 workshop for HC chairpersons. Maureen will attend.

Kristine received a call from Lisa Hevner, whose friend requested information on restoration of historic properties. Several townships' historic ordinances, some books and the CCHPN website were suggested.

7. ENT Historic House Plaques

Kristine, Carlena, Pat Traphagen and Alison have dates of origin for their houses and are presenting an order of house plaques.

8. Octavius Bull Photographs

Mark Dzuban is working with Pam at the Chester County Historical Society to locate all the Bulltown photographs. When they have been compiled, Peggy Hartzell suggested getting a Bull descendent to introduce them to a lecture audience. JoAnn mentioned that early post cards were made of Octavius Bull photos.

9. Guest Speakers

Speakers and topics suggested were Wade Catts on local archeology, Greg Huber on Southeastern PA barns, or Jim Garrison on the work of architect R. Brognard Okie. This event will probably occur in April. Maureen will try to line up a speaker soon.

10. Additional Items

Pennsylvania Historic Registry Status was sought for The Cupola Furnace and Mill District by Estelle Cremers and others in 1981, but the application was deemed incomplete at the time. After recently seeking and receiving guidance from April Frantz of the PA State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Maureen, JoAnn, and Ann will restart the application process, perhaps with some help from the Warwick HC, for the 172 acre district, which is located in both townships.

JoAnn and Maureen will eventually take to Philadelphia conservators JoAnn's Hause (HRMap#029) deed that she took this past May to a Winterthur workshop. In addition to preservation guidelines, JoAnn is hoping that they will engineer a photo of the deed that can be framed and exposed to light.

Tori Lingg brought to the meeting and briefly reviewed a copy of the recently passed PA House Bill No. 1019, which will provide reasonable public access to private burial grounds.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Kristine Gordon-Watson, Secretary

Please note: Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 20, 2018.