

Historical Commission Minutes March 20, 2018

The March 20, 2018 meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

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

1. Minutes

The February 20, 2018 minutes were approved.

2. HC Committee Report, BoS meeting March 14, 2018

Kristine presented HC info during "Committee Reports" time. HC relevant items from this meeting are also included.

The HC met Tuesday, February 20. Approved minutes of this meeting will be posted on the HC page on the Township's website. Seth Hinshaw will speak April 17 on Northern Chester County barns.

Items from BoS meeting: the historic property, the barn(HRMap#001) at the French Creek Golf Course, was listed on the building inspector's report. The building Inspector said before the meeting that there was nothing new to report on the barn at 3463 Conestoga Rd. (HRMap#275). There was a final hearing on Lyons Run Road. The Supervisors voted unanimously to vacate the unused (for over a hundred years) portion of Lyons Run Rd. They formally created a trail easement on that portion for hikers and horseback riders.

3. CCHPN Workshop "Refining our Local Commitment to Historic Preservation," Saturday, March 10

Maureen and JoAnn attended at the Brandywine Museum of Art, along with others from Chester County HCs and HARBs. JoAnn held up literature "Guidelines for Guidelines" about historic ordinances that had stood up under pressure. The Certified Local Government (CLG) designation was discussed by Cory Kegerise, Eastern PA Community Preservation Coordinator; there are nine CLGs in Chester County and 43 statewide. (Note: ENT is not on this list.) Jeannine Spears, County Planner, will help townships write ordinances concerning demolition by neglect.

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, 2017, 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 March BoS meeting, the Township Engineer volunteered that there was nothing new to report.

No updates on (HRMap #029) or the 18th century center hall stone house on Millard Rd. (HRMap#019)

5. Browsers Bridge PennDOT Project Update

One of the bridges from the Group T stone arch bridges, the 1697 Frankford Avenue Bridge (aka King's Highway Bridge) in Philadelphia, with which Browsers Bridge is listed as revealed during the June 12, 2017 PennDOT-hosted Section 106 consulting party meeting, is now being worked on. No new information concerning the Nationally Registered, stone-with-brick-lined-arch 1904 Brower's Bridge (HRMap#179) (key#000086) on Mansion Rd.

6. Correspondence

On March 30 Vicki Laubach asked for and received a letter from the Historical Commission in support of Welkinweir's request for funding.

Also in March, Mark Dzuban wrote:

"Shawn and I went to CCHS to review the full inventory of Octavious Bull photos of "Mount Pleasant" (BULL ESTATE) circa 1900. We found approximately 100 relevant Photos.

My plan is to secure copies for ENHC in the April/May time frame and donate to the ENHC Archives. I should have the money raised by then. Approximately \$1,500. Let's discuss the medium. Prints, CD, etc. protected as the CCHS requires."

(Due to weather alert from the Roadmaster during meeting, we had no time to discuss Mark's exciting plan further, and we need additional information to continue discussion.)

In response to Kristine's March 18 email about reports of cut trees on Horse-Shoe Trail, Coventryville Rd. entrance,

Ingrid Cantarella-Fox sent the following March 19:

Thanks for reaching out to us. I am the President of the Horse-Shoe Trail Conservancy. We are aware of the trees which the electric company did take down and despite how it looks when you drive by (I know because I thought it was closed until my Trails Chair, assured me it wasn't), the trail is open. We will move the trees a bit farther away when weather permits. We spoke with the tree folk and they did move the logs off the trail. French & Pickering hold the conservation easement for Lundale farm which includes a provision for protection of the Horse-Shoe Trail.

Thanks for the update,

Ingrid

7. ENT Historic House Plaques

Carlena and Ann are still working on the research they have compiled on HRMap#101 to determine a date.

8. Cupola Furnace District

JoAnn, Maureen and Ann are working on updating the work on the Pennsylvania Historic Registry Status that was sought for The Cupola Furnace and Mill District by Estelle Cremers and others in 1981. From an early look, the district now seems to be comprised of six historic houses, five "sympathetic intrusions" and one "historic intrusion," the 1889 Iron Bridge at Warwick Furnace Rd..

9. Guest Speaker in April

Seth Hinshaw, local Senior Historian with RGA, Inc., will speak at the Tuesday, April 17, HC meeting about Northern Chester County barns. Seth needs access to the meeting room screen for his presentation, and he will be advised to bring his laptop and flash drive. The HC decided to include info and photos related to barns on our Historic Resource Survey. The plan is to display photos of these barns that night, so the hunt for these is on! Alison of the History Society will provide refreshments.

10. Additional Items

The owner of a house on Adams Drive (HRMap# 020) told Maureen after the February BoS meeting that PennDOT had done an archeology study, as is required in connection with the widening of the Turnpike through ENT. The Historical Commission was not contacted by PennDOT nor was given the opportunity to acquire the artifacts, which the owner declined when offered. Maureen will contact the owner for more info and PennDOT regarding protocol.

The Historical Commission voted to change the date of the May meeting from May 15, Election Day, to Thursday, May 17, a date to be verified.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM, shortly after the Roadmaster stopped by and told us that roads were becoming dicey due to the snow.

Kristine Gordon-Watson, Secretary

Please note: Our next meeting will be 7:00 PM, Tuesday, April 17, 2018 and will feature speaker Seth Hinshaw.