

Historical Commission Minutes

August 21, 2018

The August 21, 2018 meeting was called to order at 7:07 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, Tori Lingg, Marty Raser

1. Minutes

The July 17, 2018 minutes' approval is on hold until next meeting.

2. HC Committee Report: BoS meeting August 8, 2018

The HC had a July meeting. The CCHPN Volunteer Recognition Ceremony June 20 at Nottingham County Park was noted and Chester County Historical Society's letter acknowledging East Nantmeal's \$250 contribution, approved Dec. 2015, toward their permanent exhibit project, which begins this fall.

Historian and frequent ENT HC presenter Dan Graham's new book *Samuel Nutt and the French Creek Iron-Works* is now for sale.

The HC's lending library continues to grow courtesy of various donors.

Planning is underway for a visit the State Museum to get the report and see the artifacts from PennDOT's TPKE dig in East Nantmeal.

Items from BoS meeting: Solicitor Oeste spoke with Montgomery owner of the barn at 3463 Conestoga Rd. (HRMap#275). A condemn and demolish order will be issued since the roof has now collapsed and contractor John High was unable to give a removal estimate. Montgomery can appeal the condemnation order.

3. Info about 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. Oeste spoke with Montgomery (from the August 8, 2018 BOS) stating that a condemnation and demolish order will be issued since the roof has now collapsed and contractor John High was unable to give a removal estimate. Montgomery can appeal the condemnation order. Oeste had been in contact with the Court about the still ongoing situation, which will 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. Montgomery gets credit for the sale of salvage material.

Updates in ownership status of HR Survey properties were discussed. Certain HR structures continue to be of concern.

4. HC Input for the Ordinance Review Committee

Maureen will find out the membership of the ORC talk to someone about when our thoughts on revisions to The Historical Ordinance would be welcome.

5. Community Day at Warwick County Park, September 15, 2018

Diana and JoAnn volunteered to help Alison Mallamo sell the History Society's books. Ann, Kristine, and Maureen plan to attend. Peggy and Diana of EAC will also participate with the HC in representing our township, one of three sponsoring townships of this annual County event.

6. ENT Historic House Plaques

Carlena and Ann are still working on the research they have compiled on HRMap#101 to determine a date. Carlena will contact Seth Hinshaw and Andy Gustine.

7. Read and Discuss Correspondence

Maureen plans to meet with Ed Bacon about updating and improving info on the Historical Commission's webpage.

8. PA TPKE Dig Results' Quest = Fall Speaker?

There has been interest in archeology and artifacts. PennDOT has done an archeology study, as is required in connection with the widening of the Turnpike through ENT, involving (HRMap#s 016 and 020). According to Bill Parker of the State Historical office this is reference # Millard Woodstead Homestead (West Nantmeal). The Historical Commission was not contacted by PennDOT nor was given the opportunity to acquire the artifacts. Apparently PennDOT is not required to inform either the township or the county. Maureen will call both the PHMC and PennDOT to inquire about a speaker to inform us of policy and the "the nature of artifacts". Everyone present thought combining an expert with an artifacts' roadshow-and-tell would be intriguing and worthwhile to share with more fellow residents, as well as those from the other townships involved.

(Related to the above: Maureen, JoAnn, Ann, etc. were/are considering a trip to see the three boxes of artifacts and a copy of the report from the dig stored at the State Museum in Harrisburg.)

9. Cupola Furnace and Mill District Update

The Cupola Committee plans to inquire of April Franz the guide lines for 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. Seth Hinshaw had mentioned that April could be helpful before (and if) he gets involved.

(If the archeology speaker does not come to speak, as hoped, the group will combine visit purposes, if there needs to be a trip to Harrisburg.) From an early look, the district now seems to be comprised of six historic houses, five "sympathetic intrusions" and one 'historic intrusion," and additionally the 1889 iron bridge at Warwick Furnace Rd.

10. Additional Items

There was more talk about local place names, as inspired by Marty's memorable reading from *Chester County Place Names*, including Hell's Hinges and the actual whereabouts of Abner's Hill.

The idea of giving new residents, especially owners of HR Survey properties, "welcome" packets with info about the township's history and procedures, was again mentioned. Who wants to be involved and what should be included is yet to be determined

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

The next meeting is Tuesday, September 18, 2018, 7:00 PM.

Kristine Gordon-Watson, Secretary
Maureen Noonan, Chairperson