

Historical Commission Minutes

October 16, 2018

The Tuesday, October 16, 2018 meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M.

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, Carlena Robison, Marty Raser and Alison Mallamo

1. Minutes

The September 18, 2018 minutes were approved.

2. HC Committee Report, BoS Meeting October 10, 2018

Kristine attended and gave the following HC report: The HC met Tuesday, September 18. Approved minutes will be posted on HC webpage. Members and friends participated in Community Day, September 15, 2018 at Warwick County Park. JoAnn Domanski talked with Laura Salvucci, reference librarian, who hosted a booth for Chester County Library. Laura told JoAnn that the Library is working on a program to digitize Chester County history. Laura is looking for historic Chester County articles and memorabilia and can be contacted at lsalvucci@ccls.org or 610-280-2629. Maureen has called the PHMC inquiring about having an archeologist involved with the turnpike dig come to inform us of policy, review his/her experience with this local project and share the “the nature of artifacts” discovered. There were no results for October. We hope someone will be available for November or in the spring.

Items from BoS meeting: Jeffrey Morton of 325 Nantmeal Rd. complained that this spring’s replacement pipe (not a new pipe but a new insert placed inside the disintegrating original pipe) by the bridge which carries Nantmeal Rd. over a small stream in Nantmeal Village now constricts the flow of water and causes water to inundate the nearby property, HRMap #106. The supervisors voted to reinstate a new pipe of the dimensions of the original pipe. Mike Montgomery of Wilmington, DE, owner of endangered barn Conestoga Rd. property, HRMap #275, then took center stage to tell the audience his history with that property. The supervisors made him cut this story to describe what actions he was proposing for the property for which a Notice of Demolition was issued August 29, 2018. They now gave him until February 1, 2019, to

complete the condemnation order on the barn at 3463 Conestoga Rd. (HRMap#275).

The Ordinance Review Committee will reconvene Monday, November 19 at 7 P.M.

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. The supervisors, who issued a Notice of Demolition on August 29, 2018, now give him until February 1, 2019, to complete the condemnation order. One hope is that at least the barn's stones would remain local, ideally used in restoration projects.

Browsers Bridge on Mansion Rd. needs appropriate masonry maintenance; Mansion Rd. needs paving on bridge site. Research needs to be done to determine how to achieve these projects necessary for the good of this National Register historic structure within a NR District, which joins ENT with Warwick Township as a designated state road.

Concern continues for historic structures needing stabilization to survive, with discussion ongoing. (Having a Notice to Preserve an HR property instead of a Notice to Demolish one as part of our Ordinance would be preferable!)

Gary Wills by email and Ann Bedrick drew the assembly's attention again to the Hause Store (HRMap#029). The homeowner has cleared debris and vegetation around the building; yet a roof or protecting tarp is needed to prevent further degradation. A fundraiser was discussed until it was emphasized that clear preservation title was necessary ensuring demolition was off the table.

Changes in various HR properties' ownership statuses were discussed.

4. The Ordinance Review Committee

ENT's Ordinance Review Committee will reconvene Monday, November 19, at 7 P.M. Kristine cited article about E. Brandywine Township's historical ordinance in action in the 2018 August edition of CCHPN's *The Ledger*, p. 7. Maureen suggested a meeting to compile revision suggestions for our Historical Ordinance to present to the OR Committee.

5. ENT Historic House Plaques

Carlena and Ann are still working on the research they have compiled on HRMap #101 to determine a date of origin. Ann is working on getting the recovering Seth Hinshaw, who unfortunately suffered a heart attack, to stop by HRMap #101 before the next meeting

6. Correspondence

Karen Marshall, CCHPN, recently sent notice about the Fall Supper Lecture Series at Yellow Springs. October 25, and December 13, 2018. See attached for details.

7. Fall Speaker Search

Interest in local archeology and resulting artifacts is up since PennDOT did an archeology study, as is required in connection with the widening of the Turnpike through ENT, involving HRMap #016 and #020 in ENT and neighboring townships. Maureen has called the PHMC inquiring about having an archeologist involved with this dig come to inform us of policy, review his/her experience with this local project, and share the "the nature of artifacts" discovered. There were no concrete results for October, mainly due to such a speaker's needing PA Turnpike Comm.'s approval. Let's hope for a November or spring 2019 speaker!

8. Cupola Mill and Furnace 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 (to see the three boxes of artifacts and a copy of the report from the dig stored at the State Museum in 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.

9. Historical Commission on Township Website

Updating and improving info on the Historical Commission's web page were briefly discussed. A couple suggestions were better initial visibility and improved links, including one to the list of books that the History Society has for sale.

10. New ENT Resident "Welcome Packet"

We started a list of what we want to include in a new ENT resident welcome packet, considering maps of the Township and Nantmeal Village and a copy of the Zoning Ordinance.

11. Additional Items

A card was signed and will be sent to the family of James Cochrane, long-time resident and regular at our Historical Commission speaker nights. Active for many years in the township, Mr. Cochrane passed away October 2, 2018. All present contributed to a donation to St. Mary's Episcopal Chapel in Warwick, as his family requested.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

The next meeting is Tuesday, November 20, 2018, 7 P.M.

Kristine Gordon-Watson, Secretary
Maureen Noonan, Chairperson