

# Historical Commission Minutes

## September 18, 2018

The September 18, 2018 meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 and Alison Mallamo

### 1. Minutes

Both the July 17 and August 21, 2018 minutes were approved.

### 2. HC Committee Report, BoS Meeting September 12, 2018

The HC met August 21. Approved minutes will be posted on HC webpage. Members and friends participated in Community Day, September 15, 2018 at Warwick Park.

**Items from BoS meeting:** Solicitor Oeste said a Notice of Demolition was issued August 29, 2018 on the barn at 3463 Conestoga Rd. (HRMap#275). Montgomery has 30 days to execute the order or he can appeal the condemnation order.

Audience member Mr. Gale posed questions to the solicitor about what could be done about another so-called "eyesore." Mr. Gale lives across the road from an early log house, HRMap #42, which he described as being in bad shape from neglect. Oeste said to refer to The Property Maintenance Code in our ordinance; the zoning officer was instructed to survey the property.

The board approved Green Valleys Association's petition for a special liquor permit for an annual fundraiser Oct 10.

### 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, 2017, the owner has yet to comply. Oeste (from the September 12, 2018 BOS) stated that a condemnation and demolish order was issued August 29, 2018.

Montgomery has 30 days to execute or 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 stones

would remain local, ideally used in restoration projects. Montgomery gets credit for the sale of salvage material.

Browsers Bridge on Mansion Rd. needs masonry work; 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 historic structure, 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!) Changes in various HR properties' ownership status were discussed.

#### **4. The Ordinance Review Committee**

ENT's Ordinance Review Committee will reconvene shortly. 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. Community Day at Warwick Park, September 15, 2018**

Diana, Kristine, JoAnn and Ann displayed historic information and helped Alison Mallamo sell the History Society's books. Peggy Hartzell of EAC also participated. JoAnn 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](mailto:lsalvucci@ccls.org) or 610-280-2629

#### **6. ENT Historic House Plaques**

Carlana and Ann are still working on the research they have compiled on HRMap#101 to determine a date. Ann took pictures and thinks that it may have been built as a store. Carlana will contact Andy Gustine. Another contact, Seth Hinshaw, unfortunately suffered a heart attack two weeks ago. Everyone present signed his get well card.

#### **7. Correspondence**

August 20, 2018 – request forwarded by Kathy Brumfield from a Florida resident for information on East Nantmeal clockmaker Abraham Corl (Maureen referred him to *Chester County Clocks and Their Makers* by Arthur Edwin James.)

August 29, 2018 – request from resident for East Nantmeal photogenic schoolhouses and medical related businesses (Various schoolhouses were

suggested, including one pictured in the Nantmeal Village National Register Form, available on the HC page of ENT website. No medical-related buildings came to mind, but doctors of the Branson family came up during research.)  
September 10, 2018 – request forwarded by Kathy B. from descendant in Oklahoma for help finding the burial site of probable Presbyterian James Morrison, who evidently died in ENT in 1760 (Ann Bedrick mentioned that no Presbyterian churches existed in ENT, and township boundaries were very different that early. Maureen sent the contact information for Tri County Heritage and CCHS was sent to the inquirer.)

Karen Marshall, CCHPN, recently sent notice that the August SHPO newsletter is available online for those interested. She also sent news that grants are available to Certified Local Governments (CLG). (How ENT could benefit by registering as a CLG needs further discussion.)

### **8. 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#s 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. So far there are no concrete results for October, mainly due to such a speaker's needing PA Turnpike Com.'s approval. Other thoughts were to retain a local archeologist or a resident artist to speak on Duffy's Cut.

### **9. 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.), 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. 2018 Town Tours and Village Walks**

The reviews are in--Maureen enjoyed the Phillips' Mushrooms Store tour at the family farm in Kennett; Evie the Phoenix Column patented by the Phoenixville Iron Co. in 1862. Many members went to East Coventry's Frick's Lock village, and Kristine visited the Bondsville Mill. The reservations for the new light dinner and talk at Yellow Springs were quickly filled for those interested--maybe next summer!

### **11. Historical Commission on Township Website**

Updating and improving info on the Historical Commission's web page was 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.

### **12. 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.

### **13, Additional Items**

Diana mentioned how West Pikeland Township had petitioned The US Geological Society to name (based on historical data) an unnamed tributary. Vicky Laubach of Green Valleys is hoping the Historical Commission will be motivated to research the historic name of an unnamed tributary to the Beaver Run.

The 78th Annual Chester County Day, which benefits CC Hospital, is Saturday, October 6. This time the NE quadrant of CC is featured, with the morning hunt kickoff, complete with foxhounds, in Birchrunville.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.**

**The next meeting is October 16, 2018, 7:00 PM.**

**Kristine Gordon-Watson, Secretary**

Maureen Noonan, Chairperson

