

Historical Commission Minutes

November 20, 2018

The Tuesday, November 20, 2018 meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM.

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

Guests present: Tori Lingg, Carlena Robison, and Marty Raser

1. Minutes

The October 16, 2018 minutes were approved.

2. Resignation of H C Member. Recommendations for Recruits.

Evie Baird after a decade of service offered her resignation as of the end of the month. Members outlined her contributions to the Commission. Maureen will notify the BoS and ask for ideas for recruits.

3. HC Committee Report, BoS Meeting November 14, 2018

Maureen attended and gave the following HC report: The HC met Tuesday, October 16. Approved minutes will be posted on HC webpage.

Items from BoS meeting: Maureen brought up the cell tower proposed by the French Creek Golf Course and asked our BoS if they had heard anything about this project, The BoS said they had not, probably verifying that this directly involved West Nantmeal, as we figured out, although the 199' vertical structure will probably be visible from some locations in East Nantmeal. The BoS approved the Redford Plan and a lot line change in Hickory Hill development. After a few years' hiatus, the Ordinance Review Committee will reconvene Monday, November 19, at 7 P.M.

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. 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 a National Register historic structure within a NR District, which joins ENT with Warwick Township as a designated state road.

5. The Ordinance Review Committee

ENT's Ordinance Review Committee reconvened Monday, November 19, at 7 P.M. Maureen and Kristine attended and presented a list of ideas (Having a Notice to Preserve an HR property instead of a Notice to Demolish one as part of our Ordinance would be preferable!) about Historic Preservation that they wished the committee to review regarding Article XVI Historic Resource Protection Standards. Article XVI will eventually be put on the ORC agenda. The next meeting will be Monday, Dec. 3, 7 PM.

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.

6. Correspondence

Oct. 17, CC Heritage Preservation Coordinator Karen Marshall emailed CCHPN's Heritage Events, Oct.-Dec. and the PA SHPO Nov. newsletter. These will be forwarded to those interested by Maureen upon request.

(This event might be of interest: December 18, 2018, 8 AM to 3:30PM, **“A Local Christmas” Bus Tour to Brandywine River Museum featuring Primitive**

Hall Who: National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum, Cost: \$75, or \$70 for museum members, Where: Brandywine River Museum (meet at NISHM) *For tickets, education@steelmuseum.org or 610-384-9282*)

Received from the Township Oct. 22: Mary Ellen Wynn of Cambridge, MA, emailed the township Oct. 11 with info about her 5th great-grandfather Jonathon Wynne who moved with his wife Ann Warner Wynne to Nantmeal in 1732.

Coincidentally, David Wynn from Birdsboro, another Jonathon Wynne descendant has been in contact with Ann Perry about his Wynne fore bearers. Ann lives in one of the two early East Nantmeal Wynnes' homes. Ann emailed David about getting in touch with possible relative Mary Ellen Wynn.

Received Oct. 27: Karen Marshall sent CCHPN-sponsored events' save-the-dates for 2019. First up is the Leadership Luncheon for chairs of CC's historical commissions, committees, and HARBs Jan. 19. Maureen plans to attend.

Maureen followed-up Karen Marshall's Nov. 8 email after talking with West Nantmeal Township's secretary Deborah Kolpak about the cell tower situation. Wed., Nov. 14, Diana Cormak and Maureen drove by what seems to be the future site at the end of 345/Bulltown Rd., which is in West Nant. along the Turnpike.

Evidently Lotis Engineering and Seidel Planning (of Pottstown) made a presentation (which they had requested too late for Oct.) at WNT's regular Nov. BoS meeting. No mention of a Section 106 was made. The house and barn pictured in the tower site photos are WNT historic resources and the former family farm of a WNTHC member. The Turnpike is being widened along that stretch. The tower builders were told that they have to somehow show that there is a need for such a vertical bridge--esp. since there is a tower in the works on the Elverson Fire Company's property somewhere in or outside of Elverson Borough, as someone brought up. West Nantmeal, etc., are supposed to be parties in the required Section 106, and the PA SHPO has relayed concerns to those involved.

Good news was received Nov. 20 that PennDOT will re-list Browers Bridge for roadbed maintenance and masonry reparations, which do not involve drastic dismantling the walls, etc. of this historic structure as previously proposed. PennDOT plans to provide details of this 2019-2020 project soon.

7. Spring Speaker Search

Some possibilities mentioned:

An archeologist involved with local digs to inform us of policy, review his/her experience with this local project, and share the "the nature of artifacts" discovered

Author Robyn Young to talk about the lives of Pennsylvania women artists in the 19th and 20th centuries and their struggles to be included in a male-dominated art world, as detailed in her book, *Women in Penn's Woods: A History of Women in Pennsylvania*.

Author David L. Culp, who wrote *The Layered Garden*, which shows how to recreate Culp's majestic display, with a basic lesson in layering — how to choose the correct plants by understanding how they grow and change throughout the seasons, how to design and maintain a layered garden

Cooking in Colonial Times and The Blackpot Society

Speakers from Hopewell Furnace for speakers. (One of the rangers has done quite a bit of research on African American workers in the iron industry. What is the story about what Mrs. Pew called the “slave Oak “?)

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

Maureen still hopes to meet with Ed Bacon about updating the HC webpage and report.

10. New ENT Resident “Welcome Packet”

Still ongoing is the 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

Grateful acknowledgement for the card with artwork by Ann Bedrick and signed by the Historical Commission was received from the family of James Cochrane. Ann’s artwork was a drawing of St. Mary’s Episcopal Chapel in Warwick, a copy of which will be put in our archives.

Diana Cormack sent an email stating that the Phoenixville Public Library will host "The Song of the Seasons: A Historical Music Program" with performers Rick Spencer and Dawn Indermuehle on **Thursday, December 6 at 7:00 PM.**

Carlena brought up the possibility of transferring some of Ann Bedrick's wonderful ENT sketches to toile-like fabric. Ann's depictions of sites along ENT's historical Provincial Road, which she has been researching, were suggested for such a project also.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

The next meeting is Tuesday, December 18, 2018.

**Kristine Gordon-Watson, Secretary
Maureen Noonan, Chairperson**