

# Historical Commission Minutes

## December 18, 2018

The Tuesday, December 18, 2018 meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

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

Guests present: Tori Lingg, Alison Mallamo, and Marty Raser

### 1. Minutes

The November 20, 2018 minutes were approved.

### 2. Recommendations for Recruits for Historical Commission.

Joanne Domanski has previously shown interest. On another occasion Debbie Westfall mentioned to Maureen that a young couple, due to move to her neighborhood next year, are history-minded. Nothing has been received yet from the article in *The New Sweetwater Reporter* asking for interested parties to respond to the BoS.

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

**Kristine attended and gave the following HC report:** The HC met Tuesday, November 20, 2018. Approved minutes will be posted on HC webpage.

**Items from BoS meeting** The cell tower proposed by the French Creek Golf Course is in West Nantmeal, although the 199' vertical structure will probably be visible from some locations in East Nantmeal.

The BoS approved the 2015 updated version of the International Property Maintenance Code.

As a matter of interest, a supervisor announced that the State has made it illegal to plant bamboo.

The zoning case of Victor Sheronas, who was present, was discussed. In 2017, Victor called Chuck Cutlip, LTL's zoning officer, to ask whether a permit was needed to install a walkway from his house to the street. Victor related that Chuck said no permit required. The township then required Victor to pay for building, grading and zoning permits plus a fine. Victor wrote a letter, and, because only a zoning permit was needed, he was refunded \$750 for the unused grading and building permits. Most present felt the fine should also have been revoked.

Ordinance Review Committee will reconvene Tuesday, January 29, 7:00 PM.

#### **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.

Brower's 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. Late in November Brower's Bridge was placed on a future maintenance list. This time no drastic deconstruction, but PennDOT has yet to send the information as promised.

#### **5. The Ordinance Review Committee**

ENT's Ordinance Review Committee convened Monday, December 3, at 7 PM; Maureen and Kristine attended. The three members, Ed Bacon, Wayne Grafton, Tyler Wren, continued working on the draft by reviewing and updating as needed the definitions' portion of the Zoning Ordinance. One example--the definition of "Demolition by Neglect" was added to this section. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 29, 7:00 PM.

#### **5. ENT Historic House Plaques**

Carlena and Ann are still working on the research they have compiled on HRMap #101, and waiting for assistance from Seth Hinshaw, who is recovering from a heart attack, to determine a date of origin.

#### **6. Correspondence**

Karen Marshall emailed the PA SHPO Dec. newsletter, which was forwarded.

SHPO also sent correspondence concerning their review of the cell tower proposed by French Creek Golf Course, part of which follows:

*While we appreciate the project sponsor's proposed stealth design (pine tree), due to the height of the proposed tower, and the fact that the project area is "in a highly developed and moderately treed, rural section of Elverson/West Nantmeal Township" the use of a pine tree stealth tower, in our opinion does not negate the visual intrusion.*

## **7. Spring Speaker Search**

Phone calls will follow up some possibilities mentioned for March and April:

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. (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 “?)

Deborah Patterson, a culinary historian

(a suggestion via an email 12/17/18 from JoAnn: On a recent Service Electric Cable show *PA Books*, JoAnn saw Bob Drury, one of the co-writers of the new book *Valley Forge*. She thinks he would be a great speaker to get, but she wonders if a man with a book on the *New York Times* bestseller list would come to speak at the East Nantmeal Township Building. Drury said he usually researches for three years before he and his co-writer write a book.)

## **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. 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.

Historian 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 check on Cupola Mill and Furnace info, see the three boxes of artifacts, and get a copy of the report from the dig stored at the State Museum in Harrisburg.)

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

At this rate, Maureen hopes to catch up with Ed Bacon early in 2019 and discuss updating the HC webpage on the township's website.

### **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**

Maureen brought info. about Abraham Corl, mid-19th century East Nantmeal clockmaker, from the book *Chester County Clocks and Their Makers* by Arthur E. James. Maureen made a copy of this section, which she gave to Marty Raser for the archives and/or bookshelf. Hopefully we can add articles such as this one to the HC webpage also. We have had at least one inquiry about A. Corl.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.**

**The next meeting is Tuesday, January 15, 2019.**

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