

Historical Commission Minutes

January 15, 2019

The Tuesday, January 15, 2018 meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

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

Guests present: Tori Lingg, JoAnn Domanski, and Marty Raser

1. BoS appointments to the Historical Commission

Alison Mallamo was newly appointed, and Mark Dzuban and Gary Wills were reassigned three year terms by the BoS at the January 7, 2019 Organization Meeting. Welcome to all!

2. Historical Commission 2019 Organization

Maureen Noonan was unanimously voted Chairperson by the HC, as was Kristine Gordon-Watson, Secretary.

3. Minutes

The December 18, 2018 minutes were approved.

4. HC Committee Report, BoS Meeting January 7, 2019

Maureen attended and gave the following HC report: The HC met Tuesday, December 18, 2018. Approved minutes will be posted on HC webpage. No one contacted the township office about joining the HC.

Items from BoS meeting

Three were were appointed to the HC, as seen in #1 above.

Solicitor Oeste announced that The French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust is in talks with Nantmeal Village Historic District resident Robert Schoonmaker about a conservation easement on his 47 acre property. The BoS is looking into helping with township open space funds.

Diana Cormack said that the EAC is partnering with West Vincent Township in a seed swap January 26, 2019 at the West Vincent Township building 9 -12 AM. The Ordinance Review Committee will reconvene Tuesday, January 29, at 7 P.M.

5. 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.

Ann Perry informed Alison Mallamo that Bill March, Finney Road resident, is concerned about the Hause Store and would like to assemble a group of volunteers to at least attempt to lessen further damage to this historic gem by throwing a tarp over the structure. Alison will follow up with Bill as soon as she speaks with the store's owner and obtains her blessing. Alison will also work with Supervisor Wren to develop a volunteer's release form,

holding the owner harmless from any liability. Alison thinks this form's wording would be similar to that on the Equine Liability sign.

Without hesitation, Mark Dzuban and Kristine generously donated funds towards the purchase of a protective tarp.

Ann suggested adding the so-called "space house" on Coventryville Road, which was built around 1961, to the HR Survey.

6. ENT Historic House Plaques

Ann has talked with local historian Jane Dorchester about HRMap #101; Jane will talk with other experts Seth Hinshaw and Andy Gustine.

7. Correspondence

Another email seeking information came to the township from a Wynn. Matt Wynn, Wayne, PA, wanted to know of any current Wynns in the township.

From Mr. Wynn's email: *My 6th great grandfather is Jonathan Wynn, born in Philadelphia in 1704, married Anne Warner in East Nantmeal on June 16, 1730, and died in East Nantmeal on April 17, 1788.*

(Note: Alison checked the SWR's mailing list for Wynns/Winns and did not see any. At the BoS meeting, Ed Loomis verified that Rick Wynn, the only Wynn he knew of, had moved away years ago.)

Alison will send Matt Wynn a copy of Estelle Cremer's work on the Joshua Marsh house. Maureen suggested adding information on the HC's webpage to guide ancestor seekers, such as a link to a list of local professional researchers and local historical resources.

8. Spring Speaker Search

Possible dates for a speaker are these Tuesday meeting nights: March 19, April 16, or May 21.

JoAnn will try to contact Bob Drury, one of the co-authors of the book *Valley Forge*, who also has a very interesting background as a war reporter. JoAnn and the group thought would be a great speaker to get, but we wondered if a man with a book on the *New York Times* bestsellers list would come to speak at the East Nantmeal Township Building. JoAnn added that he did speak to the Boy Scouts, so perhaps there is hope.

Maureen has emailed Hannah Harvey and Janet Johnson, both with the PHMC in Archeology. Phone calls will follow up.

Some other possibilities mentioned included:

An archeologist involved with state-sponsored local digs (A complication: Such a presenter needs permission to speak about his/her experience with this local project and share the "the nature of artifacts" discovered.)

Other speakers and ideas include the following:

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

Author David L. Culp, who wrote *The 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.)

Deborah Patterson, a culinary historian

9. Cupola Mill and Furnace District Update

Maureen has emailed April Franz, SHPO, for guidance about what information/process is needed for the state to determine if the Cupola Furnace and Mill District is even eligible for to be considered for registration. We would like to know what is involved, for this district and other sites under consideration. (We have 1981 documents for this district, which were sent to SHPO and labeled them as incomplete.) We await her reply so we can determine our approach.

10. Historical Commission on Township Website

Maureen hopes to get HC webpage updates to Ed Bacon early in 2019, including the aforementioned link, along with others, to facilitate research of one's ancestors by experts.

11. New ENT Resident "Welcome Packet"

Still ongoing is the list of what we want to include in a new ENT resident welcome packet. In consideration are maps of the Township and Nantmeal Village, a copy of the Zoning Ordinance, and information related to an Historic Resource property, such as the Chester County Historical Inventory Form from the 1989 survey from our archives.

12. Additional Items

Saturday, Jan. 19, Maureen and Ann will attend a preservation workshop for Chester County HC/HARB leaders, organized by CCHPN's Karen Marshall. One goal is to find out about updating our list of historic structures.

Mark Dzuban had a variety of items to share:

- 1) He offered to arrange to donate to the township a photograph of the Reverend Levi Bull portrait, which is housed in the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Ludwig's Corner. HC accepted his offer.
- 2) Howard Guess, Jr., owner of HR Mt. Pleasant (The Bull Mansion), let Mark know that he is considering building an appropriate domestic building for his mother on his property.
- 3) Builder/Developer Merle Stotzfus would like to donate the artifacts from the archeological dig performed by the PHMC before the French Creek Golf Course was built. The survey was overseen by PHMC's Janet Johnson, whom Maureen has contacted about seeing the objects from the PennDOT dig. These approximately 1500 artifacts from the pit survey are primarily chipping debris from a wide range of minerals from the early production of arrowheads .
- 4) Mark mentioned he had some information that opposite the French Creek Golf Course entrance is a Native American burial "mound" with a monument put up by West Nantmeal Township. Further details are to come.

5) Mark asked if HC would be interested in copies of 1500s Dutch maps from our Chester County region. HC did express interest.

The book, *Downingtown Friends Meeting*, was donated to the HC shelves by Linda Walters of Warwick HC, via Diana Cormack.

JoAnn donated the article "The Reading Furnace Farm" from *Country Life Magazine*. (Maureen suggested designing an ENHC book plate to affix to such a donation in commemoration, perhaps with the ENHC logo. Hopefully these labels will be developed soon.)

Following a conversation with Ann Perry which included his early days in the village of Marsh, Bill March has decided to donate his c.1940-1950s report cards from The Union School and the Hause School to the township.

**Thanks to all donors!

All assembled signed a get-well card to send to Commissioner Gary Wills.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

The next meeting is Tuesday, February 19, 2019.

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