

# Historical Commission Minutes

## February 19, 2019

The Tuesday, February 19, 2019 meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM.

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

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

### 1. Minutes

The January 15, 2019 minutes were approved with a change to #12 Additional Items. (Bill March's donated report cards are from the Union School.)

### 2. HC Committee Report, BoS Meeting February 13, 2019

**Maureen attended and gave the following HC report:** The HC met Tuesday, January 15, 2019. Approved minutes will be posted on HC webpage. She announced that Bill March has donated his Union School report cards. Supervisor Ed Loomis said that both he and his sister attended there concurrently with Bill.

#### Items from BoS meeting

The BoS voted for the Township Open Space Fund to contribute (along with The French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust (FPCCT) and The Chester County Open Space Fund) to conservation easements on the 47.4 acre Schoonmaker and the 25 acre Gammon properties. The properties are contiguous, and both lie within the Nantmeal Village Historic District. Pam Brown from the FPCCT stated that a trail connecting these two farms with other conserved lands was a work in progress.

Solicitor Oeste announced that owner Michael Montgomery now has until May 31 to remove barn (HRMap #275). To get this extension, Montgomery must produce a signed contract from his contractor stating that work will begin by April 15 and be completed by May 31.

Volunteers' involvement and the minor investment of a tarp to secure the House Store from further deterioration were discussed.

The Ordinance Review Committee will reconvene Tuesday, March 12, 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 May 31, 2019, to complete the condemnation order. One hope is that at least the barn's stones would remain local, ideally used in restoration projects.

Alison Mallamo is working with Bill March, Finney Road resident, who would like to assemble a group of volunteers to at least attempt to lessen further damage to historic gem, HRMap#029, the Hause Store, by throwing and securing a tarp over the structure's roof. Alison spoke with the store's owner and obtained her blessing. Kevin McAfee estimated the work involved, and Ann Bedrick has contacted Diane Cramm of CCHPN for another estimate. Alison is working 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.

Ann said that another historic store, the Dalesville Store in Londonderry Township, had also fallen into disrepair and now has a GoFundMe page.

#### **4. ENT Historic House Plaques**

Ann has talked with local historian Jane Dorchester about HRMap #101; she will contact Dianne Cramm for another date assessment.

#### **5. January 19 CCHPN work session and February 4 ORC meeting Recaps**

**Saturday, Jan. 19**, at the West Whiteland Municipal Building in Exton, Maureen and Ann (who is also our area's MuSA leader) attended a preservation workshop for Chester County HC/HARB leaders, organized by CCHPN's Karen Marshall. The Planning Commission provided the HC/HARB leaders with flash drives which contain info from last year's and today's workshop, Landscapes 3 details, and HR Atlas and maps (Maureen was given and now has ENT's flash drive.). The three presentations were designated "case studies" drawn from emails sent to Karen Marshall, CCHPN, about situations which could possibly relate to most municipalities. The first case involved East Whiteland's challenge of making their historic Gunkle Mill accessible to all. The next dealt with the HC actually being part of the review of an HR's development or change, with involvement in giving recommendations through Planning and reviewing applications and permits. The final part had to do with demolition, the take-away being that Historic Resources' protection should clearly be part of the ordinance, with a process for all to follow. (The Historic Ordinance should line up with Zoning and Planning for smooth follow-through by BoS.) Handouts and notes will be given to Marty Raser, our archivist, for filing.

**Monday, Feb. 4,** Kristine and Maureen attended the Ordinance Review Committee. Items reviewed and discussed were in Section III, including AP Accessory Use, Accessory Dwelling, Design Standards. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 12.

## **6. Correspondence**

Alison sent copies of both Estelle Cremer's work on the Joshua Marsh House and Ada Philips' *History of East Nantmeal Township* to Matt Wynn, Wayne, PA, who wanted to know the history of Wynns in the township.

Karen Marshall sent the notice of the CCHPN workshop, Saturday March 23 at the Brandywine River Museum. Kristine might attend.

Maureen forwarded to all the PA SHPO's February 2019 Newsletter and the CCHPN Events Calendar.

## **7. Spring Speaker Search Results**

Dan Graham will speak on the cannon of Warwick Furnace, Tuesday, April 16, 2019. He currently has books about Valley Forge and Warwick Furnace in the works.

Note: JoAnn brought copies of late 1800s newspaper illustrations of the Warwick Furnace to the meeting.

Arrowhead aficionado, Steve Somers of Glenmoore will speak on local artifacts related to the area's earliest inhabitants that he has found Tuesday, May 21, 2019.

## **8. Cupola Furnace and Mill updates**

Maureen received from April Franz, SHPO, guidelines about what information/process is needed for the state to determine if the Cupola Furnace and Mill District is even eligible to be considered for registration. We have the 1981 documents for this district, which were sent to SHPO who labeled them as incomplete.

Maureen will now email Seth Hinshaw and Jane Dorchester, asking what they would charge to bring the documents into compliance with the guidelines.

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

Maureen talked with Ed Bacon, ENT Website Manager, at the February BoS meeting. They are working on updating the HC webpage, now adding the link to facilitate research of one's ancestors by experts. Ed requested that Maureen email him the revisions for the webpage.

### **10. New ENT Resident “Welcome Packet”**

In consideration are maps of the Township and Nantmeal Village, information related to an Historic Resource property, such as the Chester County Historical Inventory Form from the 1989 survey from our archives, *Finding History in East Nantmeal* and the CCHPN Directory of Trades and Services for Historic Architecture.

### **11. History Society**

We briefly discussed the EN History Society’s structure, membership, and dues. Marty and Kristine paid the updated \$10 dues immediately. Alison reported that the book *History of East Nantmeal Township*, reprinted in January 2000 and with a forward by Ada Philips, is in short supply. Do we want to reprint this book?

### **12. Additional Items**

Since Sunday, March 10 is PA Charter Day, all State museums are free, noon to 5:00 PM.

Marty brought Bill "Billy" March's original, mid-20th century Union School report cards in for the archive file.

The possibility of having Ann B's wonderful ENT sketches on notecards was again discussed. Ann said there was talk of her sketches of the schoolhouses being used for this purpose at one time.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.**

**The next meeting is Tuesday, March 19, 2019.**

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