

Historical Commission Minutes

June 18, 2019

The Tuesday, June 18, 2019 meeting was called to order at 7:02 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

1. **Seth Hinshaw Provides Info**

As we requested, Seth Hinshaw, Senior Historian, RGA, Inc., attended and discussed the work involved to further the Cupola Furnace/ Mill District nomination and the Marsh Village nomination for the Historical Register. Maureen provided Seth with the 1981 documents for these districts, which were sent to SHPO who labeled them as incomplete. Seth will share this information with Bob Wise to come up with an estimate of cost for completing the nominations. Maureen also asked for a quote for a possible HR Survey update. We need to let Seth know which option we want, when for Bob Wise, also of RGA, to work up his estimate. The HC decided that the Marsh Village should be pursued first if we proceed, due to its Conestoga Road location and current historic resources.

2. **Minutes and Speakers**

Both the February 19 and March 19, 2019 minutes were approved.

All present concurred that speakers Dan Graham on April 16 and Richard White and Steve Somers, on May 22, held rapt audiences of 40 plus. (Each speaker received a \$100 honorarium. A copy of Dan Graham's handout will be put in the archive file.)

3. **HC Committee Report, BoS Meeting June 12, 2019**

Maureen gave the following HC report: Richard White and Steve Somers presented archeology talks Wednesday, May 22, the day after Election Day. Thanks were given to all who made the evening possible, including Supervisor Ed Loomis for room prep, and HC members Diana Cormack, for technical support, and Alison Mallamo for the refreshments.

Items from BoS meeting

Supervisor Ed Loomis announced that the Boy Scouts, with supervision, will clean up the Quaker Cemetery in Nantmeal Village, June 22.

Supervisor Tyler Wren mentioned that he is seeking an assessment of market value of the beleaguered Michael Montgomery's Conestoga Rd. property to gather input for the Township's future course of action. He also related that at his request Wesley Sessa, 18th Century Restorations, and John High, Barn Savers, went into Mr. Montgomery's collapsing barn (HRMap #275). They determined that there is nothing of value left, and that John High does not want to be involved. Another company gave to Supervisor Wren an estimate of \$20,000-\$30,000 to remove the debris and then stabilize as ruins the stone ends and foundation, thereby not totally eliminating a documented Historic Resource. More information is to come. (Supervisor Wren noted that this issue has been ongoing for six years, and the Township is looking into options to wrap this up.)

The Ordinance Review Committee will reconvene July 9, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

4. Info about Historic Resources

Ongoing Issue (as per #3 above): Mr. Montgomery, the owner of the barn at 3463 Conestoga Road (HRMap #275), has yet to comply with the Notice of Demolition, issued August 29, 2018. See #3 above.

Dianne Cramm, Historic Preservation Consultant, visited HRMap#029, the Hause Store, and offered this advice:

As for Hause Store, as you know it is an incredible resource but will be lost in short time if it is not at least stabilized with a solid roof. I will ask Andy Gustine if he can stop by there to see what he can observe. I'll coordinate that with you, [as per the owner's wishes]

PennDOT's new plans for Browers Bridge on Mansion Rd were discussed. This project, now focused on maintenance and road bed renewal, does not involve a drastic disassembling of the bridge's walls, as originally announced a few years ago. Recently the Grosses, owners of Reading Furnace Farm, which overlooks this listed bridge on Mansion Rd. in this Historic District, had mentioned the great need for speed and weight signs related to the bridge. This prospect became all the more relevant shortly before March 27, the day comments to PennDOT on the project were due. A huge tractor trailer carrying hazardous waste material at 3.30 AM, was captured by a sycamore branch before entering the bridge and remained stuck when Mrs. Gross walked out to get her morning paper. State Police and over-sized removal trucks were called to remedy this situation. The bridge managed to escape damage, thanks

probably to that tree branch, as Mrs. Gross related. Such comments in support of the bridge and the project were sent to and posted by PennDOT in keeping with the deadline by Kristine Gordon-Watson, Bill and Joan Gross, Maureen Noonan, Tyler Wren, and Warwick Township.

HR properties are for sale on Hedge Rd. (2) and Conestoga Rd., near Rt. 345. A few have sold. (See #10.)

5. Ordinance Review Committee Meetings April 17, May 7, June 11, 2019

HC members Kristine and Maureen attended in April and May; Kristine and Alison were sole attendees as usual again in June, other than ORC members. The definitions were discussed and reviewed with the written corrections supplied by Solicitor Oestes. Steep slopes and development transfers etc. came into the mix. Next will be the review of Article 12, the Timbering Ordinance on July 9. Maureen requested that any thoughts about our current Article XVI, "Historic Resource Protection Standards" be shared in prep for this section's upcoming review.

6. CCHPN Workshop “Sharing memories, Save it, Find it, Use it”

Kristine attended this event March 23, 2019 and relayed that Cory Kegerise, Jane Dorchester, Mike Missanelli, Jannessa Reed, and Bob Wise all spoke on the topic "Archival Methods with Emphasis on Digital Media and Showcasing Your History on the Web." Kristine will provide a copy of the morning's program for the archive file.

7. Correspondence

The "Before and After" photo contest, with its deadline July 2, is as follows: The *CHESTER COUNTY LEDGER* announces its “Before and After” Photograph Essay to be included in the September 2019 issue of the *Ledger*. The *Ledger* is seeking photographs of historic resources taken *before* the resource was restored or rehabilitated and then *after* its restoration or rehabilitation. We are looking for good to excellent examples of restored or rehabilitated resources whose restoration or rehabilitation followed best preservation practices, especially those defined in the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards*.

All photos must adhere to the following requirements:

1. All photos must be accompanied by the following information:
 - a. Municipality where the resource is located
 - b. Date of photograph (just a year is acceptable; if not known, then that needs to be clearly stated, e.g. “Date of Photograph Unknown”)

- c. Name of Photographer, if not known, that needs to be clearly stated (e.g., “Photographer Unknown”)
- d. Name of resource, if it doesn’t have one, that needs to be clearly stated (e.g., “Resource Name Unknown”)
- e. Credit line, if necessary (e.g. “Photograph courtesy of the Chester County Historical Society”)

The PA SHPO’s April, May, and June 2019 Newsletters and the CCHPN Events Calendars from Karen Marshall have been forwarded to HC members and volunteers.

Maureen notified Karen Marshall about a call she received from Ken Brewer, longtime ENT resident, with concerns about the roof of the listed Nantmeal United Methodist Church, located prominently at the crossroads of the Nantmeal Village Historic District. The church members are trying to figure out how to remediate the church's metal roof, which is in dire need of maintenance, in a timely, appropriate, and reasonable way. JoAnn Domanski had also been contacted by Ken and is working on this issue also.

Karen replied via email: “The organization to reach out to is the Partners for Sacred Places in Philadelphia for churches for guidance for them.” This info was given to Ken.

Karen also sent the invitation for the CCHPN Annual Volunteer Celebration, June 19, 2019.

Dianne Cramm also sent the following letter about determining the date of HR#101 in Nantmeal Village after she visited:

It is, of course, impossible to place an exact year of construction without more research, however, it seems very likely that the first structure with one story and loft above and front facing gable can be attributed to the second half of the 18th century. The modest size and apparent lack of embellishment seem to indicate that the first structure may have served as a laborer's dwelling or tenant house supporting a local plantation and/or industry. I suggest a date circa 1760 (allowing for approximately ten years on either side) for this earliest portion.

The methods used in construction of the stone addition and raised roof and the presence of a summer (or back kitchen) place this portion of the house at a possible date circa 1820 (again allowing for approximately ten years either way).

Thank you for the opportunity to evaluate this house. I'd like to hear the results of any further research that either supports or corrects the assumptions on the dates.

8. ENT Historic House Plaques

HRMap #101 in Nantmeal Village now has a date for its plaque, circa 1760, courtesy of Dianne Cramm, see "Correspondence" above.

9. Historical Commission Page on Township Website

We are still getting list of changes and improvements for the HC page together to send to Ed Bacon, ENT Website Manager.

10. CCHPN Volunteer Celebration, June 19

Maureen and Ann will attend this annual event at the Chester County Historical Society and mention East Nantmeal working with Warwick on the preservation of Brower's Bridge in the annual "Roll Call" of historic happenings in the County. With her artistic flair, Ann is preparing the evening's program and awards.

11. New ENT Resident "Welcome Packet"

In consideration for such packets 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, a copy of *Finding History in East Nantmeal*, and the CCHPN Directory of Trades and Services for Historic Architecture. New owners include HR properties on the following roads: Fairview Rd. in Nantmeal Village, Potts School Rd., Templin Rd., and in a few days Warwick Furnace Rd.

12. History Society

The need for a description of the History Society was briefly mentioned; Alison will provide one to include on the website. Dues for the HS were also briefly discussed. We need to see if *History of East Nantmeal Township* needs to be reprinted for lack of available copies.

13. C. Loomis Donation

On May 22, the evening of the speakers, Jim Jenkins delivered items for donation to the Township from long-time former ENT resident Charles "Chuck" Loomis, now a resident of Tel Hai. These items are now stored in the township building, awaiting cataloguing. We hope to meet with Mr. Loomis at Tel Hai

about his donated articles. (We will discuss with our archivist at next meeting in July.)

14. Additional Items

We are considering how to follow up with Historic Preservation Consultant Jane Dorchester also about historic nomination districts and the HR survey. (She and Maureen talked via phone in April and chatted briefly again at CCHPN event in June.)

This summer's Town Tours, "Our Villages Then & Now," kicked off Thursday, June 13, in West Chester and continues Thursdays through Aug. 29. Ludwig's Corner is on for June 20; Warwick Village is on June 27. (JoAnn and Maureen are helping at the Warwick Village tour; Ann Bedrick is preparing the sketches and map for the tour's program.) Brochures are available in the ENT lobby and in various places the County and online (chescoplanning.org--Click "Historic Preservation" under "Planning Resources.")

There was a call for research to find the current oldest residents who were born in the township.

There was a question about how terms of an easement are kept in regards to building. An answer will be sought!

Tory arrived to announce that all approvals were given for the casino in Carnarvon Township, very near Morgantown.

The Chicken Barbecue at the East Nantmeal Methodist Church is Saturday, July 20. call 610-613-2657 to place orders.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

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

