

Historical Commission Minutes

December 17, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

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

Guests present: JoAnn Domanski and Tory Lingg

1. Minutes

The November 19, 2019 minutes were approved after minor corrections.

2. BoS Meeting, December 11, 2019

Maureen gave the following HC report: The Historical Commission had a meeting November 19, 2019; the minutes will be posted when approved. Work to update the Historic Resources Survey/Map continues.

Items from BoS meeting

Michael Montgomery, owner of the HRMap#275 barn, emailed Solicitor Oeste to say that he expected a sale of the property by the end of the year. (Oeste wrote to Michael Montgomery September 10, 2019 regarding his Conestoga Rd./Rt. 401 property and the Township's Notice of Demolition, issued August 29, 2018.)

ORC will not meet in January, and a date for February has yet to be decided.

3. Info about Historic Resources

As reviewed above, Mr. Montgomery, the owner of the barn at 3463 Conestoga Road (HRMap #275), has stated that he expects a sale by the end of the month.

The Hause Store (HRMap#029), with permission from the owner, was visited by historic restoration carpenter Andy Gustine to assess the building's condition for subsequent stabilization steps, December 3 at 3:30 PM. Dianne Cram, historic restoration consultant, came to record the visit and was joined by a HS member and a three HC members.

4. Ordinance Review Committee (ORC) Meeting, December 16, 2019

HC members Kristine and Maureen were in attendance, besides ORC members Ed Bacon, Dave Maugle, Tyler Wren and ENT Land Planner Wayne Grafton. The AP District was reviewed and the section on Notices for zoning and permit changes. The ORC is to revise Article III by email before the meeting in February. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

5. Historic Resources Map/Survey

A discussion on updating the Historic Resources Map which "identifies the Historic Resources of East Nantmeal Township" (from Article XVI of ENT Ordinance) was held. Alison, Maureen, and Kristine attended the 7:00 AM, November 27. BoS work session (prelim. 2020 budget meeting) at the township building. At this meeting the BOS authorized \$5,000 needed for the Township to participate in the County's Vision Partnership Program (VPP), needed to pay for for the professional HR Survey/Map update, part of the Ordinance Review.

A few VPP grant details:

VPP Grant manual and application form online, CC's Planning Commission's site Jan. 8

Deadline for scheduling a Grant info session with S. Elks

Feb. 7

Deadline for the Grant application

Feb. 21, 4 PM

Maureen will alert Bob Wise and Seth about this timeline for preparing the ENT grant application and set up meeting in January with Susan Elks, the County's VPP Grant Administrator.

6. Correspondence

Maureen forwarded PA SHPO's November and December newsletters to HC members and supporters. At Maureen's request, Ed Bacon posted on the ENT website info about upcoming December events at Welkinweir (Holiday Open House) and the Bentley Preserve (Natural Winter Tree "Decorating").

7. ENT Historic House Plaques

Alison announced a "not-unreasonable price hike" on house plaques and her plan to advertise them next fall. The search continues for a house suitable for a C. 1740 Nantmeal Village Historic District house plaque.

8. Historical Commission Page on Township Website

Ed Bacon posts our minutes upon approval. Hopefully we will get additional info and updates to Ed soon. Alison's History Society description needs to be added.

9. 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 1979 survey from our archives, a copy of *Finding History in East Nantmeal*, and the CCHPN *Directory of Trades and Services for Historic Architecture*. Ann Bedrick will make copies of the 1883 Map. New owners include HR properties on the following roads: Nantmeal Rd. in Nantmeal Village, Potts School Rd., Templin Rd., Warwick Furnace Rd., and Prizer Road.

10. History Society

Alison confirmed that the annual dues for HS membership are ten dollars. An idea for a small memento presented upon membership is an environmentally-friendly, USA-made cloth tote/ market bag with drawings of historic resources and our logo.

We need a price to reprint *History of East Nantmeal Township*, to include an addendum with updates to the original edition. Based on AbeBooks.com, our current prices may be low.

11. C. Loomis Donation

In the new year, 2020, Maureen will be scheduling a follow-up meeting (not on a Monday or Tuesday!) with the donor of ENT-related photos and papers, Chuck Loomis.

12. Additional Items

JoAnn Domanski has given her late father's, former ENT supervisor Don Silkmitter's, copies of the 1928 through 1942 *Ore Mine Newspaper*, a publication of the long-consolidated former Warwick High School, now the OJRSD Administration Building at Knauertown, to the Tri-County Heritage Society, Elverson.

An anonymous donor presented nonagenarian Kimberton farmer Clyde Scheib's recently released narrative *Seven Stars and Beyond, Preserving Local History* to the Historical Commission's library. This book was purchased at Ideas Bookstore in Kimberton and is also available (and well-received!) on Amazon.com.

The BoS organization meeting, with regular monthly meeting following, is Monday, Jan. 6, 2020, at 7:00 PM. Three HC members are due for re-appointment.

Those in attendance were encouraged to think of goals and plans for 2020 for January's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 7:00 PM.

**** (Meeting time later changed to 6:00 PM, due to a West Caln History Society talk.)**

Kristine Gordon-Watson, Secretary

Maureen Noonan, Chairperson