

Historical Commission Minutes August 18, 2020

This first HC Zoom meeting (Thanks, Diana!) was called to order at 7:01 PM.
(The HC did not meet March, April, May, June, or July as per the COVID-19 cancellation directive from BoS.)

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

1. Minutes

The February 18, 2020 minutes were approved.

2. BoS Meetings: March, April, May, June, July, August 2020

HC reports

The Historical Commission had a meeting February 18, 2020; the approved minutes will be posted on ENT's website. Also, several HC members and volunteers and Ed Loomis met with Charles, the donor of ENT-related photos and papers, and Shirley Loomis at Tel Hai, and had a discussion about the items, February 26, 2020.

In April approval of the VPP grant to fund ENT's update of the Historic Resources/Map was announced.

In August, planning for beginning of the HR Survey project work with RGA, Inc. consultants is in its final stage. The HC will meet August 18 via Zoom.

Items from BoS meeting

In March all in-person meetings at the township building, other than BoS, were cancelled due to COVID-19, until further notice. BoS meetings will be via teleconference until further notice. (See eastnantmeal.org for details). The Morelli easement, Conestoga and Marsh Roads, was announced.

In April there was a teleconference with PennDOT concerning the removal of the Hedge Road Bridge over the PA Turnpike.

In July the BoS signed the contract with RGA for the VPP grant work, and in August more contract paperwork from the County was signed.

ORC will meet via Zoom Wednesday, September 2, 2020. The next BoS teleconference meeting is Wednesday, September 9, 2020.

3. Ordinance Review Meetings July 7, 20; August 17, 2020

These zoom meetings were conducted by the ORC's Ed Bacon. HC members Maureen and Kristine attended with ORC members Tyler Wren and Dave Maugle and consultant Wayne Grafton.

The ENT zoning map was reviewed at the July 7 meeting, with possible adjustments needed in certain areas. As a result, a change from AR to AP zoning will be subject of a July 8 Planning Commission Zoom. There was brief mention for consideration at the next meeting of the strength of current Protective Standards for Historic Resources.

At the July 20 meeting, the impact of high tunnels was discussed, along with the need to develop an operational policy for the demo by neglect issue. Further discussion of the AG Preservation Districts Ordinance Map were discussed; an area designated AR was recommended to be changed to AP1.

At the August 17 Zoom, Article XXII, Amendments; and Article XXI, Enforcement (of Zoning Code) were reviewed. Wayne Grafton brought up the Zoning Map in relation to the Comprehensive Plan, focusing on past population projections in anticipation of future requirements of the township. The ORC will seek the data needed for this determination, possibly from the Township and/or LTL Engineers. Next ORG meeting is Wednesday, September 2, 2020.

4. Historic Resources Map/Survey

A preview was held of the ENT Historic Resources Survey Project, an updating of the Historic Resources Map which "identifies the Historic Resources of East Nantmeal Township" (from Article XVI of ENT Ordinance); a project now made possible because of the County's awarding of grant funding April 16, 2020.

Zoom HC meetings, which will include RGA, Inc. project consultants Bob Wise and Seth Hinshaw, are planned for September 15 and November 17, 2020. An article about the project will be included in the upcoming summer *New Sweetwater Reporter* newsletter. Documentation of the Historic Resources will begin in September. The Historical Commission will send necessary materials to RGA and organize weekly surveys. If a drive-by audit and photo shoot are not possible from a public road, the home owner will be contacted to ask permission.

5. Info about Historic Resources

The barn at 3463 Conestoga Rd., HRMap#275, was demolished in early spring by Rotelle Builders; the local stone used to build the barn was buried on the site. Fortunately Maureen and Kristine, after a call to Pete Rotelle, photographed and measured the existing structure, Wednesday, January 15. A report about this lost historic barn and its sad fate will be compiled for the archive file. A new house on this property is under construction.

A 40+ acres farm (HRMap#109), located in the Nantmeal Village Historic District, is for sale. A 14 acres farm on Iron Bridge Rd.(HR# 066) is under agreement.

6. Future HC Events

Jim Moore, Program Director of Great Marsh Institute, and Jeff Smith will present information about the history of the Pennypacker House, HRMap#158, at the October 20 HC Zoom meeting. The Zoom invitation/info will be sent to those on the HC email list and will be posted on eastnantmeal.org in October.

7. Correspondence

1) Karin Williams emailed Maureen with a photo of a property that is the endangered-- HRMap#042, on James Mill Rd.

2) Tom Marks, West Nantmeal, requested the self-guiding map of Warwick Furnace area.

3) From Mr. Ed Lowitz: " I am looking at a deed from 1807 for a piece of land in East Nantmeal. It mentions that on the property there is a cemetery for the "Catholic Society" consisting of 18 perches (app. 50' by 100'). Apparently, the cemetery was in use at the time of the deed. Do you know of any small cemeteries in East Nantmeal that might be it?" Through Deed Search, Ann Bedrick believes "Catholic Society" and Cemetery are in West Chester.

4) David Wynn presents the case (contrary to HABS [No.PA 1205](#) (American Historic Building Survey) that his ancestor was an early proprietor of the Hause Store, HRMap#029: Appendix C of that report shows a map that includes Mansion Road and Conestoga Pike circa. 1777. Once again two structures are shown at the intersection, but this time specifically identified as "24.14 Jonathan Wynn" and "24.15 Jonathan Wynn, Store".

- 5) Information request on Guest, Newbury & Templin families from Fred Templin (Maureen emailed: Richard Templin is listed on the CC 1780 Slave Register as an owner.)
- 6) Much correspondence from Chester County Planning, RGA Consultants, the Township regarding the VPP grant.
- 7) The PHMC June Newsletter from Karen Marshal, CCHPN
- 8) Information to access the virtual Town Tours and Village Walks
- 9) Information to access the virtual 791/2 Chester County Day Tours (All four quadrants will be "toured" during the weeks of September, starting with ENT's--the Northwest.)

8. HC's Page on Township Website

Ed Bacon posts our minutes on the HC page upon approval. We will get additional info and updates to Ed soon.

9. History Society

Alison announced that historic house plaques will be promoted in the October *New Sweetwater Reporter*. There is currently one order for a plaque, which needs company to achieve the advertised cost.

10. Additional Items

The CCHPN will present an award for historic excellence to East Coventry nonagenarian historian Clyde Scheib at 10.30 AM Wednesday, August 19, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

The next HC meeting will be via Zoom Tuesday, September 15, 2020, at 7:00 PM.

Kristine Gordon-Watson, Secretary

Maureen Noonan, Chairperson