

## Historical Commission Minutes February 16, 2021

This Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

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

Also present in conjunction with ENT's Historic Resources Project: Senior Historian Bob Wise from RGA, Inc. and Jeannine Speirs and Karen Marshall from Chester County Planning.

### **1. Update of work involved in the ENT Historic Resources Survey Project**

Bob Wise of RGA (Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc.), presented a project update with Grant Director Jeannine Speirs and Historic Preservation Coordinator Karen Marshall, both from Chester County Planning.

Bob stated that there were approximately 290 Survey Forms. Selections from fieldwork (photos etc.) for 128 were finished, 81 almost finished and 80 in progress. Certain HC members will review these survey forms drafts for accuracy in the Dropbox format; Bob requested the use of the Track Changes feature for them to be able to manage getting the survey into a final form.

After reviewing certain survey forms in an area, Bob sees a potential Historic District of Agricultural Farmland along Nantmeal Road. Karen Marshall suggested combining this farmland district with the Warwick Furnace Historic District (also in Warwick Township) to create a Heritage Area, protected by township zoning. She also recommended for future study The Iron Bridge, Cupola Furnace Area as a gateway to this heritage valley. A mention was made of Pensioner's Row on James Mill Rd. as part of the valley farmland district. Several other historic districts were discussed. The revised classification method, 1, 2A, 2B, and 3, (as decided at the Nov., 2020 HC meeting with RGA and the County) is being used.

Karen mentioned that the County is in the process of assessing its historic iron bridge, which carries Warwick Furnace Rd. over the French Creek into Warwick Township. She also expressed her approval of the high standards to be used by PennDOT in the forthcoming restoration of Brower's Bridge and mentioned that our group actually inspired PennDOT to take the unheard of step of taking this bridge off its original "drastic change" list and placing it on a

more suitable list. She praised the HC and ENT for almost four years of effort to assure an appropriate plan for this National Historic Register structure.

## **2. Minutes**

The January 19, 2021 minutes were approved.

## **3. HC reports and info from BoS Meeting February 10, 2021**

**HC Report:** The Historical Commission reported that the Commission met January 19, 2021 and that RGA, Inc. has sent over 90 survey forms drafts for review.

Kristine and Maureen replied to PennDOT's late-Jan. email, as did Supervisor Tyler Wren and Warwick Township's HC Chair Karl Snyder, about pointing repair on Bowers Bridge on Mansion Rd. Work is to start soon; the first PennDOT meeting about this bridge was June, 2017 at Warwick Township. The second meeting for ENT Historic Resources Survey Project will be February 16, 2021, with contractor Richard Grubb & Associates (RGA) presenting an update.

### **BoS items:**

The owners of a property within the Nantmeal Village National Historic District on Horseshoe Trail have a 13.2 acres development plan before the Planning Commission, comprised of house, barn, indoor and outdoor rings etc. Diana said the Planning Commission granted the applicant a 90 day extension because there are questions about the proposed apartment in the barn, the placements of the buildings, and, most importantly, the need for the conservation easement holder, The Natural Lands Trust, to review and give comment on the plan.

Brower's Bridge on Mansion Rd. will be closed to traffic February 21, 2021. Restorations are scheduled for completion in late May. The first public review of the new zoning ordinance is scheduled for April 6, 2021.

## **4. Ordinance Review Committee (ORC) Meetings, January 26 and February 9, 2021**

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 land planner Wayne Grafton. Punitive measures to discourage demolition of an historic resource before the review process, Section 1604, were discussed at the January meeting, along with corrections to grammar, spelling and content of the revised Ordinance. At the February 9 meeting the zoning map was displayed, and districts were discussed. After an hour

at 8:00 PM, with no clear reason stated, Wayne Grafton called an Executive Session and ended public participation of this meeting.

## **5. Info about Historic Resources**

The sale of the 40+ acre farm (HRMap#109), located in the Nantmeal Village Historic District, was finalized February 3, 2021.

The long-planned rehabilitation of Brower's Bridge on Mansion Rd. by PennDOT is finally considered "a project currently under construction," as per Monica Harrower's email.

## **6. Correspondence**

1) Much email correspondence related to the HR Survey Project occurred among the HC Chair, RGA, Karen, and Jeannine.

Bob Wise arranged to send batches of at least 25 survey forms in a Dropbox to the Township and County, with more "batches" to follow as these are completed.

2) The Historical Society of Pennsylvania February 2021 Newsletter, forwarded by Karen Marshall, was sent to HC members and others.

3) A Dropbox link to the Pennypacker [History.mov](#) was provided to Adele Brackel, who had contacted ENT because she missed the HC's presentation Oct. 20, 2020 and wanted to catch up.

4) Feedback was sent by Kristine and Maureen in reply to Monica Harrower, Architectural Historian, PA Department of Transportation, about the stone masonry repointing test samples that were done recently on Browsers Bridge, Mansion Road. (Supervisor Tyler Wren and Warwick Township's HC Chair Karl Snyder also replied.)

5) Resident Jim Moore sent an article from the *Patch Online*, entitled "Brower's Bridge in Warwick and East Nantmeal townships is slated for rehabilitation of the stone structure."

## **7. HC's Page on Township Website**

Ed Bacon posts our minutes on the HC page upon approval. We will get updates to Ed soon. Also we would like to add a CCHPN preservation link to post upcoming events and a video of CCHPN guest presenter Kathleen Hood's January 19 presentation, *Why Preservation Matters*. (Our HC webpage does have a link to CCHPN, the source of this info; scroll down to "Resources." and click Chester County Historic Preservation Network.)

## **8. History Society**

Susan Rutherford in a consultation with Alison inferred that there was room in the unused clerk's office at the Township Building for Trish's 21 boxes of historical books. We will contact Ed Loomis to see about relocating them after the bad weather.

## **9. Additional Items**

Maureen contacted Karen Marshall, Jeannine Speirs, and the new Township secretary, Susan Rutherford, and arranged a Feb. 5 Zoom meeting with these three to bring familiarity with the workings of the VPP grant project and the first RGA invoice to Susan.

The next CCHPN Virtual Heritage Series event "Lincoln University" is February 18, 2021. Info is on CCHPN's website.

CCHPN's Virtual Spring Workshop ("Celebrating Our Cultural Heritage") will happen March 6, 2021. See CCHPN's website.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM**

**The next HC meeting will be via the HC's Zoom link (on [eastnantmeal.org](https://eastnantmeal.org))**

**Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 7:00 PM.**

**Kristine Gordon-Watson, Secretary**

**Maureen Noonan, Chairperson**