

Historical Commission Minutes January 19, 2021

This Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM.

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

Also present: Jim Moore, Bob Johnson, and CCHPN guest presenter Kathleen Hood.

There was a 2021 reorganization meeting; Maureen Noonan and Kristine Gordon-Watson were unanimously reelected respectively Chair and Secretary.

The group viewed the virtual presentation *Why Preservation Matters*, hosted by Kathleen Hood of CCHPN for The Chester County History Center (formerly known as Chester County Historical Society).

1. Minutes

The November 17 and the December 15, 2020 minutes were both approved after minor corrections

2. Update of work involved in the ENT Historic Resources Survey Project

Work continues on the ENT Historic Resources Survey Project, with Bob Wise and Seth Hinshaw, Senior Historians from Richard Grubb & Associates., Inc. (RGA), aiming to complete the many survey forms, using the photos and info they gathered during their fall fieldwork.

RGA will present a project update at the February 16 HC meeting, with Grant Director Jeannine Speirs and Historic Preservation Coordinator Karen Marshall, both from Chester County Planning, intending to join.

The first RGA invoice for work through December 31 was presented last week to the township and the county. Maureen has been in contact with Karen Marshall, Jeannine Speirs, and the new township secretary, Susan Rutherford, about this matter. A Zoom meeting with these three was suggested to bring familiarity with the workings of the grant project to Susan.

Bob Wise would like to send batches of at least 25 survey forms in an email to the township and county. Since that quantity seemed onerous for a single email, a Dropbox link was suggested.

3. HC reports and info from BoS Meeting January 4, 2021

HC Report: The Historical Commission reported that the Commission met December 15.

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: When asked, Solicitor Tom Oeste said that the Schoonmaker (HR#116) conservation easement has been cancelled.

The owners of a property on Horsehoe 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 wants the applicant to get an 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.

ENT's new secretary is Susan Rutherford, and the township hours are now 8:00 AM-3:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

4. Ordinance Review Committee (ORC) Meetings, December 22, 2020 and January 12, 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 consultant Wayne Grafton. Peggy Hartzell and Jim Moore attended the first session. Items discussed included preserving and replacing specimen trees, ordinances for soil and mushroom stockpiles, along with corrections to grammar, spelling and content of the revised Ordinance. At both meetings they reviewed ARTICLE XVI HISTORIC RESOURCE PROTECTION STANDARDS, specifically Demolition of Historic Resources 1604. Tyler asked Maureen to consult the County about punitive measures to discourage demolition of an historic resource before the review process. An audience member suggested an emergency stop order if such an infraction occurred. Maureen would like both the Historical Commission and the County to have copies of the proposed Historical Ordinance to review. The need and method for the BoS and Planning Commission, etc. to have info about which properties have conservation easements was discussed

The next ORC meetings are January 26 and February 9, 2021.

5. Info about Historic Resources

A 40+ acre farm (HRMap#109), located in the Nantmeal Village Historic District, is under contract, and settlement might be at the end of January. The Hause Store (HRMap#029) and House property sold December 16, 2020. The property at 175 Essick Rd. (HRMap#064) sold January 7, 2021.

6. Correspondence

- 1) Much email correspondence related to the HR Survey Project occurred among the HC Chair, RGA, Karen, and Jeannine.
- 2) The Historical Society of Pennsylvania January 2021 Newsletter, forwarded by Karen Marshall, was sent to HC members and others
- 3) CCHPN invitation to Zoom program "History of Martin's Tavern" January 2021 was shared.
- 4) The State Archives is pleased to announce the next Community History Dialog event will take place on January 26, from 12:00-1:30pm. We'll be joined by several speakers to learn about their experiences preserving community history at cemeteries across Pennsylvania.
- 5) Emails were sent about obtaining proposed ordinance draft of ARTICLE XVI HISTORIC RESOURCE PROTECTION STANDARDS for the County's Historic Heritage Coordinator to review, as per ORC meeting. Also Maureen emailed Karen, Jeannine, and Susan Rutherford to set up an informational Zoom about the VPP Survey Grant.
- 6) On January 19 PennDOT's District 6 Architectural Historian Monica Harrower emailed the Section 106 Consulting Parties, pertaining to Mansion Road Bridge over South Branch of French Creek. She asked for feedback on the stone masonry repointing test samples that were done recently on the bridge and for any comments by January 25. (Consulting Parties Kristine and Maureen each plan to reply to Monica's email, as they have during this Section 106 process.)

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 a CCHPN preservation link to post upcoming events and a video of this evening's presentation, *Why Preservation Matters*. Ed has set up a permanent Zoom link for future monthly HC meetings, available through the "Upcoming Meetings" listing on eastnantmeal.org's opening page and the website's "Remote Meetings" page, as well as the HC's meeting agenda.

8. History Society

Alison would like to contact members to ask if there is an interest in serving on this non-profit's board.

9. Additional Items

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

Final discussion topics included amazement about all the large ash trees that had been felled along roads under direction of PennDOT and speculation as to which ENT historical books were in the 21 boxes of books (as yet unseen) recently presented by Trish St. George.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

The next HC meeting will be via Zoom Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 7 PM.

Kristine Gordon-Watson, Secretary

Maureen Noonan, Chairperson