

# Historical Commission Minutes

## November 17, 2020

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: Peggy Hartzell, RGA, Inc. consultants Bob Wise and Seth Hinshaw, Chester County Heritage Preservation Coordinator Karen Marshall

### 1. Minutes

The September 15, 2020 minutes were approved.

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

Robert Wise and Seth Hinshaw, Senior Historians from Richard Grubb & Associates., Inc. (RGA), presented an overview of work from the ENT Historic Resources Survey Project. Bob and Seth, along with two HC members, photo-documented most of the 200+ historic resources. The survey team started Monday, September 21 in Nantmeal Village. As of mid-November, all but five or so properties are "done," along with 50-70 walls; the plan is to photo-document the remaining by the end of the month. Bob noted that he is impressed by the many intact classic farmsteads they observed throughout the Township and stated that East Nantmeal is a wonderful standout in 21st century Chester County--as we the residents know and appreciate!

Bob said that most of the properties fell under the 2A category. Bob listed and described the County-approved classifications being used for the survey in the following list:

**Class 1** – Properties that are listed in or determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or resources determined to be contributing within a NRHP listed or determined eligible Historic District.

**Class 2A** – Properties determined by the consultant, in consultation with the ENT HC, to be potentially eligible for the NRHP based on architectural significance (NRHP Criterion C) and/or, if applicable, other NRHP criteria.

**Class 2B** – Properties determined by the consultant, in consultation with the ENT HC, that contribute to the cultural landscape of ENT but may not be eligible for the NRHP.

**Class 3** – Properties containing resources that are 50 years and older and not considered Class 1, 2A, or 2B at this time.

In the future, the Historical Commission can give input to move a resource from Class 3 (considered to be of an educational nature) to Class 2B, with documentation, and then present this change to the BoS for approval.

Seth then showed us the survey form for The United Methodist Church in Nantmeal Village. These survey forms are required by law to align with the USDA Quad Maps. Typically a few photos are included in a form: there were two photos of the church and one of the graveyard. [Though the date of the church is 1852, Gary said some dates on the graveyard stones are older. Ann said the church's congregation operated in a house before the 1852 structure was built.] The completed survey form for a Nantmeal Village property was also shared.

The team's next steps are to compile the survey results, record these on the forms, and consider possible future historic districts. Eventually Bob and Seth will present the project report. The completed Historic Resource Survey will be accessible to the Township and its residents. The Historical Commission will be able to add information about these properties as it becomes known, such as related documented history from residents, and noted it as additional with sources and dates. All the photos Bob took will be given to the Township, so additional photos can be scanned.

### **3. Review September 24, 2020 HR Survey Project Meeting.**

Since Jeannine Speirs from the County was unable to attend the September 15 kick-off Zoom meeting of the VPP Grant project, we had this part of the introductory meeting with her and Karen Marshall, Chester County Planning reps, to review the contract items of the VPP Grant with those involved: the County, the Township, and the consultant, RGA ,Inc.

### **4. Report on October 20, 2020 (Zoom) fall speakers, "History of the Pennypacker House," HRMap#158.**

From the location being discussed, Jim Moore, current owner of this Great Marsh property, informed viewers of his experiences back when his father purchased and put his "marks" on Pennypacker Farm. Highlights included stories of his father's attempt to make ponds with the help of dynamite, to window-shattering results, and the nasty effects of anthrax, which caused the largest

barn in Chester County to be torn down. Jeff Smith and Lori Moore, who live on the property, also participated.

## **5. HC reports and info from BoS Meeting November 11, 2020**

**HC Report:** The Historical Commission reported that Jim Moore, Program Director of Great Marsh Institute, and Jeff Smith presented the history of the Pennypacker Farm, HRMap#158, at the October 20 HC Zoom meeting. The Historic Resources Survey Project is well underway, with the photo-documenting of the historic treasures almost completed by Bob Wise and Seth Hinshaw, usually accompanied by HC members Ann Bedrick and Maureen Noonan. The second meeting for ENT Historic Resources Survey Project will be November 17, 2020, with contractor Richard Grubb & Associates (RGA) presenting an update.

**BoS items:** When asked, Solicitor Tom Oeste said there should be final news about the Schoonmaker (HR#116) conservation easement soon. Maureen asked about the process of paying the October speakers an honorarium, as customary. The BoS will review.

## **6. Ordinance Review Committee (ORC) Meetings, September 22, October 6, November 2 and 22, 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. Items discussed included, high tunnel use and appearance, billboards, set backs, ADUs and lot averaging and corrections to grammar, spelling and content of the revised Ordinance. Next ORC meetings are December 2 and 22, and January 12, 2020.

## **7. Info about Historic Resources**

A 40+ acres farm (HRMap#109), located in the Nantmeal Village Historic District, is under contract. The House Store (HRMap#029) and House property is listed for sale.

## **8. Correspondence**

- 1) Much email correspondence about adjustment of classifications between Bob, Seth, Karen and Jeannine
- 2) Much email correspondence between Maureen and RGA involving logistics of survey
- 3) Nathalie Karas from RGA Consultants called. She has been hired to research the chronology of the Thomas May Potts house located at 860 Warwick Furnace Road in Warwick Township. On the 1873 Witmer Atlas the

Thomas May Potts house is located ¼ mile east of the Warwick Furnace owned by Nathan Potts.

4) PA SHPO October Newsletter

5) Alison previously sold MapHR#147; current owner now requests all historic information!

6) Rick Harrison, current owner of the Tilt Hammer Mill site, MapHR#080, sent an email lauding Ann Bedrick's help with historical documentation.

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

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

### **10. History Society**

Alison announced that the checks due to Andy Gustine and Diane Cram for their report on an HR were mailed.

### **11. Additional Items**

Gary brought up historical township photographs and items he acquired and wants to save. Alison has some knowledge of a Chester County repository hosted by Chester County Historical Society.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.**

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

**Kristine Gordon-Watson, Secretary**

**Maureen Noonan, Chairperson**