

Historical Commission Minutes

April 20, 2021

This Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:11 PM.

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

1. Minutes

The March 16, 2021 minutes were approved.

2. HC report and info from BoS Meeting April 14, 2021

HC Report: The Historical Commission reported that the Commission met March 16, 2021. HC members continue reviewing the numerous Historic Resources Survey Project forms and sending their feedback to RGA consultants. Maureen and Ann attended the CCHPN leadership luncheon, April 10, the final event for much-appreciated CC Historic Preservation Coordinator Karen Marshall, who retires next week. Kristine and Alison have coordinated the Nantmeal Friends Cemetery clean-up for Earth Day, Thursday, April 22, with Twin Valleys Garden Club and ENT. (A discussion about this last topic ensued: see below.)

BoS items: The Horseshoe Trail 20+A property development plan, located in the Nantmeal Village Historic District, needs further work and was granted last month a 90-day extension until July.

The many flowers along the roadside wall of the graveyard of our historic Quaker meeting (Sadly the building no longer stands.) are in need of attention. Gerallyn Duke, President of the Twin Valley's Garden Club, has recruited volunteers for this project for April 22, Earth Day. Ed Loomis reported that the road crew will put out cones in the road, bring safety vests and dispose of the weeding debris. The iron bridge which carries Warwick Furnace Rd. over the French Creek into Warwick Township, was mentioned. This County bridge is currently under review for maintenance. Among the roads considered for township maintenance is Valley Way (Various concerns have been expressed for many years about the poor state of Valley Way on ENT's side of the Valley Way bridge, despite Warwick's maintenance of its part of this road.).

The next ORC meeting May 11, 2021.

3. ORC meeting, April 6

After many ORC meetings over three years, Wayne Grafton delivered to Planning Commission members a draft of the comprehensive plan for the updated zoning ordinance early April. The Planning Commission will start their review at their next meeting. The HC will especially review the draft of the HR section, Article XVI.

At the April 6 Zoom meeting, the ORC group began their review of the 2012 draft of ENT's Comprehensive Plan, a long-overdue matter. The Comprehensive Plan, which looks ahead to the state of the Township for to the 2021-2031 years, includes a mission statement emphasizing the township's commitment to land conservation with natural and historic resources. Neither Kristine or Maureen had a relevant copy of the Comp. Plan to follow along, but they tried their best to follow along! Wayne basically reviewed the process and first sections before getting a start.

Note for next ORC meeting: The 2014 designation of Nantmeal Village Historic District needs to be added to the Comprehensive plan, along with the updated Historic Resources Survey and Survey Map. The update needs to include the current amount of conserved land and the "new" (since the last plan) Open Space Tax now in place. The ORC will next meet via Zoom May 11, 2021.

4. CCHPN Leadership Luncheon, April 10 and CCHC *Historic but not Significant* Lecture, April 15

At the virtual, annual Leadership Luncheon, Emma Biehl spoke on the PA Share System, a County and Statewide database. Rob Williams, Tredyffrin Historical Commission, talked about building an HC and the benefits of joining the the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions. Cory Kegerise, PHMC's Community Preservation Coordinator for our Eastern Region, recommended townships work to become eligible to be a Certified Local Government (CLG) program, which is under the National Park Service, to "strengthen access to strengthen local historic preservation activities through exclusive funding incentives and enhanced technical assistance." (phmc.pa.gov)

At a couple times, the attendees broke into small groups lead by the Network's MUSA leaders, including our Leader Ann Bedrick.

During a final comment session, Ann and Maureen joined in and thanked the soon-to-retire Karen Marshall for all her guidance and patience with ENT through the years.

According to Maureen, CCHPN's Virtual Heritage, Third Thursdays program, Jane Dorchester gave a lecture *Preservation 101: Historic but not Significant*, on ranch houses from 1940-1970. Jane, a historic researcher, developed this topic because the historic guideline that buildings be "at least 50 years" now includes such a group. Such a house on Trego Road would fit this category, and Maureen will ask Bob about including it in the survey.

5. ENT Historic Resources Survey Project Update

Members are in throes of reviewing for accuracy the approximately 300 Survey Forms that RGA has presented to the Commission in the online Dropbox format. Each survey form has eight pages, so there is plenty to review. Bob requested the use of the Track Changes feature for them to be able to manage getting the survey into a final form. Kristine has been able to start to making these adjustments--THANKS, Kristine! At a Zoom April 18, Kristine presented for discussion with Ann, Alison, Diana, and Maureen, a long list of details related to specific forms. Because of this process, the next pre-scheduled meeting with RGA, Inc. will be pushed into at least the end of May for RGA's final presentation. (The County has given ENT's project an extension.)

6. Info about Historic Resources

The iron bridge, which carries Warwick Furnace Rd. over the French Creek into Warwick Township, is a Pony Truss steel bridge made by the Phoenix Bridge Company in the late 19th Century by engineer Dunlap Denithorne. The County is now reviewing the bridge for safety upgrades. Karen Marshall has sent a copy of the last review report of this structure, done in 2017. The HC, along with the County, will aim to maintain this bridge and its historicity and function. For future possible historic ENT district: The Cupola Furnace Historic District, along the French Creek, Warwick Furnace Rd., is labeled as such on Warwick's Historic and Architectural Map,

which can be accessed on that township's website. The iron bridge would be included in a potential historic district.

The new owner of The Hause Store (HRMap#029) and the Hause House (HRMap#030) would like to meet with the Commission. Maureen has sent him the HABS report from the 1970's and will set up on Zoom.

HRMap #104 in Nantmeal Village is on the market; according to Ann, this house has been owned by the original family's descendants since it was built. HRMap#070, 3855 Coventryville Rd. is also for sale; Ann knows of a painting of this house in local possession and will check into its whereabouts.

HRMap#04, 102 James Mill Rd., is also available to purchase.

7. Correspondence

1) Many emails between Maureen, RGA, and Jeannine Speirs about the VPP Grant's first invoice.

2) Ann will get back to the volunteer at the Anselma Mill who requested information on James Benson, one of the original owners of Anselma.

3) Maureen contacted Karl Snyder about Iron Bridge and forwarded him the County's 2017 report.

***4) Bob Johnson Guest Family ???

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8. HC's Page on Township Website

Maureen sent Ed Bacon Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb. HC minutes for him to post on the HC webpage. The HC's Zoom link can be found under the listing in "Upcoming Events" on the ENT website's opening page

9. History Society

David Frame told Alison that the road crew in May will pick up and transport to the Township the books from Trish St. Georges' basement.

10. Additional Items

Twin Valleys Garden Club clean-up of the Nantmeal Friends' Cemetery roadside garden is set for this Earth Day, April 22.

Stanley Guest wrote a history of the Guest family which he is sending to Alison hopefully to be included in the final edition of *The New Sweetwater Reporter*.

Gary is still holding various items of local interest he rescued until placement of these is determined.

Through registration on CCHPN website, April 21, 2021: *Bridge the Atlantic: Iron and Steel Heritage* Webinar between Chester Co., PA. and Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Cornwall, England. 10 A.M.

Also April 21, 2021 7-8 P.M. from the Chester County History Center: *Death by Petticoat: American History Myths Debunked* (registration needed)

CCHPN's Virtual Heritage Series, Live at Five, May 20: Gardner-Beale House of Caln. See website for registration info.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

The next HC meeting will be via the HC's Zoom link (on eastnantmeal.org) Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at 7:00 PM.

**Kristine Gordon-Watson, Secretary
Maureen Noonan, Chairperson**