

## Historical Commission Minutes March 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**.

### 1. Minutes

The February 16, 2021 minutes were approved.

### 2. HC report and info from BoS Meeting March 10, 2021

**HC Report:** The Historical Commission reported that the Commission met February 16, 2021. 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. Several Historical Commission members attended CCHPN's Virtual Spring Workshop ("Celebrating Our Cultural Heritage").

PennDOT/JD Eckman, Inc. has started work on historic Brower's Bridge, Mansion Rd.

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

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 attendance. Diana Cormac suggested contacting local volunteers from the area's garden club and will put a notice on the EAC web site, hopefully for the initial session April 22, Earth Day. This project is a joint effort with the HC, EAC, and Township.

Ed Loomis and Maureen visited Brower's Bridge on Mansion Rd. They both had favorable reports of the repair work being done.

Iron Bridge, which carries Warwick Furnace Rd. over the French Creek into Warwick Township, was mentioned. This is a County bridge that is currently under review for maintenance. Tyler plans to contact the relevant parties. Maureen has been in touch with the County.

Years in the making---ORC and Planning Commission members are awaiting Wayne Grafton's delivery of the draft of updated zoning ordinance. Maureen requested a copy of at least the Historic Resources section, Article XVI. The ORC will meet April 6, 2021.

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

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. Because of this process, the next pre-scheduled meeting with RGA, Inc., April 20, will need a new date, perhaps pushed into at least May for RGA's final presentation. (The County has given ENT's project an extension.)

#### **4. Info about Historic Resources**

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 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The engineer is Dunlap Denithorne. The County is now reviewing the bridge for safety upgrades. The HC will aim to maintain this bridge and its historicity. 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.

Ann Bedrick suggested that The Hause Store be resubmitted to the "Preservation Pennsylvania" contest. She will try resubmit the relevant form; the deadline is looming.

#### **5. Correspondence**

- 1) Much email correspondence related to the HR Survey Project among the HC Chair, RGA, Karen, and Jeannine.
- 2) Maureen sent the Historic, Architectural and Archeology Map of Warwick Township to Karen Marshall.
- 3) A volunteer at the Anselma Mill requested information on James Benson, one of the original owners of Anselma. (Ann B to check)
- 4) Maureen requested help and information on the future Iron Bridge assessment from Karen Marshall and contacted Warwick Township's HC's Karl Snyder.
- 5) Diana sent to Maureen a request from Ed Bacon for information about the Mormon Seminary in Nantmeal, which is now in Wallace Township on Little Conestoga Rd.
- 6) Maureen also contacted Karl Snyder about visiting Brower's Bridge to see work in progress. Various concerns were expressed again about the poor state of Valley Way on ENT's side of this bridge, despite Warwick's maintenance of its part of this road.

#### **6. 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.)

#### **7. History Society**

ENT Secretary Susan Rutherford sold a History Society book (during Township business hours), as did the Chester County Historical Society in West Chester. Alison secured storage space at the Township for the books from Trish St. Georges' basement. The maintenance crew plan to help with the books' relocation.

## **8. Additional Items**

The next CCHPN Virtual Heritage Series event "Duffy's Cut of Malvern" is March 18, 2021 from 5-6 PM. Info is on CCHPN's website.

CCHPN's Virtual Spring Workshop ("Celebrating Our Cultural Heritage") March 6, which Maureen and Kristine attended, was discussed. Topics were:

~ WHY OLD PLACES MATTER KEYNOTE ~ Tom Mayes of NTFHP ~ PRESERVATION, PLANNING & PROTECTION STANDARDS ~ Jeannine Speirs

~ DIVERSITY & PRESERVATION ~ Bertha Jackmon & Tonya Thames-Taylor

~ HISTORIC PLACES IN OPEN SPACES ~ John Snook

This webinar can be viewed on the CCHPN website.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.**

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

**Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 7:00 PM.**

**Kristine Gordon-Watson, Secretary**

**Maureen Noonan, Chairperson**