

## Historical Commission Minutes May 18, 2021

This Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:10 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 April 20, 2021 minutes were approved, with these following additions to item #3) ORC meeting, April 6:

The 2014 designation of Nantmeal Village Historic District must 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" ENT Open Space Tax now in place.

### 2. HC report and info from Board of Supervisors Meeting May 12, 2021

**HC Report:** The Historical Commission reported that the Commission met April 20, 2021. The minutes, when approved, will be posted.

The many flowers along the roadside wall of our historic Nantmeal Friends Cemetery were tended to by volunteers from the Twin Valleys Garden Club on April 22, Earth Day. Ed Loomis and the road crew donned safety vests, put traffic cones in the road, spruced up the cemetery grounds, and disposed of the weeding debris. Thanks to all involved were conveyed.

Maureen recently met Karl Snyder, Warwick Township Historical Commission/HARB, at Browers Bridge on Mansion Rd. in prep for the Final Inspection Meeting with PennDOT and J.D. Eckman, Inc., Contractors Friday, May 14. When the Supervisors asked for take-aways from our visit, Maureen reported the very noticeable use of conflicting gray rocks instead of more appropriately-colored brown stones in obvious locations, along with concerns about some areas of pointing and possible future erosion along the sides. Maureen plans to attend the May 14 meeting at the bridge, along with Karl and the ENT Supervisors, to discuss these items with the PennDOT crew.

**BoS items:** The first invoice from RGA Consultants for the Historic Resources Survey Project was approved and paid.

Contracts were awarded to pave Valley Way and parts of Hedge Road.

The next ORC meeting is June 1, 2021, at the Township Building.

### 3. Ordinance Review Committee Meeting, May 4

The ORC members resumed review of the 2014 Draft of the Comprehensive Plan, focusing on Chapter 9, Natural Resources and Open Space Plans.

Updates needed include: the 2020-21 HR Survey and Map in process, the amount of conserved land in 2021, the current and future Open Space Tax policy, the 2014 Nantmeal Village Historic District designation, potential historic districts.

The ORC will next meet June 1, 2021

#### **4. ENT Historic Resources Survey Project Update**

Members are in throes of reviewing for accuracy the approximately 300 Survey Forms that RGA consultants have presented to the Commission in the online Dropbox format. Each survey form has eight pages. 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 making these adjustments. Because of this process, the next pre-scheduled meeting with RGA, Inc. will be pushed into late summer or early fall for RGA's final presentation. (The County has given ENT's project an extension.)

RGA has sent several emails to Maureen regarding changes to the project. Maureen will discuss these with Jeannine Speirs at the County for review.

During her reviews, Survey Coordinator Kristine noticed that some photos are missing. She informed Ann Bedrick and Maureen which ones need to be taken and sent to RGA consultants to add to the respective Survey forms. Ann plans to organize info she has about the many ENT historic resources to include on the survey forms.

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

The final inspection for Browers Bridge, on Mansion Rd. (SR 320), was Friday May 14. PennDOT project meetings started in 2017. This bridge was originally included in Group T, with a plan that would have had a drastic impact. Objections to this initial plan were raised and presented to PennDOT by participating "parties" from Warwick and East Nantmeal Townships, especially their HC members (including now former Warwick member Linda Walters).

Finally in 2019, the bridge was put into another more suitable five-bridge package, Group O, and work was awarded to contractor J.D. Eckman, Inc. Included in this contract group are historic stone arch bridges, Browers and the 1789 Trinity Bridge in Gladwyne, the fifth oldest still-trafficked bridge in the country.

Protective layers were put on top of the arches before the paving was put on top; the contractor rep marveled at the overall good condition of the brick arch beneath.

Maureen and Karl Snyder of Warwick's HC, along with ENT Supervisors Ed Loomis and David Frame, discussed their concerns, such as the use of gray rocks, certain areas of pointing, and possible erosion problems, with the PennDOT and contractor reps, and were assured that these issues would be resolved. For protective maintenance, PennDOT will inspect the bridge at least every year. Everyone from PennDOT's historic panel, Monica Harrower, Kristin M. Cappara, PHMC's Emma Diehl, Chester County's Karen Marshall, and those from East Nantmeal and Warwick Townships advisory boards, as well as the craftsmen from J.D. Eckman and property owners, William and Joan Gross, are to be commended for their efforts.

The development plan for the approx. 20 acres property on Horseshoe Trail Road, which is located in the Nantmeal Village Historic District, needs further work and was granted an extension until October at the May 13 Planning Commission meeting.

The owners of The Hause Store (HRMap#029) and the Hause House (HRMap# 030) met with the Commission via Zoom. Maureen had sent to them the HABS report from the 1970's. They are planning to subdivide the approx. 7 acre property and want to

shore up and prevent further degradation (i.e., a roof on the Haise Store) to attract buyers of historic properties to that approx. 2 acre lot..

HRMap#104, 327 Nantmeal Rd. in the Village, is on the market. Also for sale are HRMap#042, 102 James Mill Rd., and HRMap#070, 3855 Coventryville Road.

## **6. Correspondence**

- 1) Many emails between Maureen, the Township, RGA, and Chester County's Jeannine Speirs about the VPP Grant invoices
- 2) Communication from the Zoning Officer and the Township regarding HRMap#042
- 3) Email from the Chester County History Center about Zoom offerings
- 4) Email From 2021 CCHPN Virtual Heritage Series May 20, 5:00 PM, Topic: Gardner-Beale House, Caln Township

## **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.

## **8. History Society**

Gary proposed a donation by the History Society of commemorative plaques for HRMap#029 and HRMap#030, the Haise Store and House, if indeed the buyers do work to maintain these structures before their re-marketing.

## **10. Additional Items**

Reminder: 2021 CCHPN Virtual Heritage Series, May 20, 5:00 PM

Info about this summer's CCHPN Town Tours and Village Walks, commencing June 17, is posted on the Township website.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.**

**The next HC meeting will be Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 7:00 PM.**

**Kristine Gordon-Watson, Secretary**

**Maureen Noonan, Chairperson**