

Historical Commission Minutes
June 15, 2021
ENT Township Building

This meeting, the first "live" in the Township Building since PA COVID emergency declared March 2020, was called to order at 7:07 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 May 18, 2021 minutes were approved with minor corrections, including changing "Quaker" to "Nantmeal Friends" before "Cemetery."

2. HC report and info from Board of Supervisors Meeting June 9, 2021

HC Report: The Historical Commission reported that the Commission met via Zoom May 18, 2021 (due to Election Day). The minutes, when approved, will be posted. Work on the VPP granted Historic Resources Survey Project is progressing.

The Final Inspection Meeting with PennDOT, JD Eckman Contractors, the ENT Supervisors, and a few members of ENT's and Warwick's HCs happened Friday, May 14 at Browers Bridge, SR 320, Mansion Rd. This historic gem has emerged close to its original self—curves included, thanks in part to having four years of watchful involvement from both ENT and Warwick. The more appropriate brown stones have now replaced the clashing gray ones noted by the ENT/Warwick groups at the Final Inspection at the bases of the wing walls and down by the creek. PennDOT plans to keep eyes on maintaining this restored bridge as it continues into its second century.

BoS items: The Supervisors met with Bill Gladden of the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust to donate to the Trust, for trail upkeep, the road fill that had previously been used on ENT's unpaved Valley Way Rd. section, since this material is no longer needed now that Valley Way Rd. is scheduled to be paved by ENT.

Ed Loomis reported on the contracts to pave Valley Way Rd. and part of Hedge Road.

Ed and Gary Wills had a detailed discussion about the equipment and the actual location for repairs needed on a drain near Gary on Horseshoe Trail, part of the Nantmeal Village Historic District.

Diana of the Planning Commission reported that Zac Arnold attended the meeting to introduce owner OZ Group's plans for the House Store and House Property, both historic resources on ENT's Survey. Mr. Arnold said the owner is in the process of obtaining a "better survey for the subdivision," with the store and house to remain on one lot.

The next ORC meeting is July 6, 2021, at the Township Building.

3. Ordinance Review Committee (ORC) "Meeting," June 1, 2021

Kristine and Maureen, Historical Commission members and sole regular ORC attendees, went to the township building for the scheduled ORC meeting, only to see no other vehicles parked in the lot and no explanatory sign posted. A call to Supervisor and ORC member Tyler Wren revealed that the meeting had been cancelled (evidently without public notice) and apologized for our resulting inconvenience. (See #5 below for info about the brief discussion had about an HC matter.)

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. During reviews, it was noticed that some photos are missing. To supply these, Maureen took pictures of three walls and cemetery walls in the Warwick Furnace Rd. area, and Ann pictures of walls on Fairview and Font Rds. ,etc. 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 copy them to Jeannine Speirs at the County for review.

5. Info about Historic Resources

After the final inspection and subsequent re-opening, Maureen sent a letter of appreciation to everyone from District 6 PennDOT's historic panel, upon successful completion of the Browers Bridge/Mansion Road Project. The EN Historical Commission would like to nominate the bridge for a 2022 Preservation Achievement Award from Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia; last year's deadline was in February.

The development plan for the approx. 20 acres property on Horseshoe Trail Road, which is located in the Nantmeal Village Historic National District, needs

further work and was granted an extension until October at the May 13 Planning Commission meeting. Diana reported that the Natural Lands Trust has finished their review.

The new owners of the Hause Store (HR#029) and the Hause House (HR #030) met with the Planning Commission May 13. Their seven-acre lot is right on the limits of net acreage for a three-lot subdivision, and another survey is needed to determine this possibility.

HR#104, 327 Nantmeal Rd. in the Village, is on the market, as is HR#042, 102 James Mill Rd. HR#070, 3855 Coventryville Road, is also for sale; the HC will try to access a known painting of this property, known as Crown Ridge Farm, in hopes of obtaining some original structural information. Questions related to historicity have come into the Township Office about two of these historic resources and have been fielded to the Zoning Officer as well as the HC.

During the June 1 call from the Township's parking lot about the status of that night's ORC meeting, Maureen asked Supervisor Wren if he knew that HR#227 had been demolished, since, to the HC's knowledge, no demolition notice had been posted or seen on the monthly Zoning Report, as per the guidelines of the zoning ordinance for demolition. Tyler had not heard of this situation. The concern is that, despite HR#227 being designated on the ENT HR Survey as Class 3, Historic Property 50 years and older, the HC (perhaps along with BoS? Zoning Officer? and residents?) was not even aware of the impending demolition. Discussion about how the Zoning Officer, Township, and HC can at least know about any such an HR issue in the future is needed.

No new information about the status of easements/conservation concerning two large HR properties has been confirmed yet.

6. Correspondence

- 1) Email correspondence between the township which agrees to accept Twin Valleys Garden Club's offer to arrange a fall cleanup of the Nantmeal Friends cemetery and to continue annually with a spring and fall cleanup
- 2) Many emails between Maureen, the Township, RGA, and Chester County's Jeannine Speirs about the VPP Grant invoices
- 3) Communication from the Zoning Officer and prospective buyer regarding HR#042

- 4) Email from Maureen thanking PennDOT's Monica Harrower, Kristin Capper, and the District 6 crew for the successful Browsers Bridge on Mansion Road project
- 5) Email from Maureen to Karen Marshall and Linda Walters about Browsers Bridge
- 6) Email from Maureen to Tyler forwarding CCHPN Virtual Heritage Series: Preservation 101 ~ Historic But Not Significant
- 7) Email chain regarding HR#070, from a realtor to LTL Inc., Zoning Officers
- 8) Email from the Chester County History Center about Zoom offerings
- 9) Email from 2021 CCHPN Virtual Heritage Series Town Tours and Village Walks starting June 17, 2021, with possible actual walking tour later in the summer

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. We would like the pictures from the April 22 cleanup of Nantmeal Friends Cemetery, as well as Browsers Bridge's Final Inspection, posted.

8. History Society

More interest on Gary's proposal of a donation by the History Society of commemorative plaques for HR#029 and HR#030, the Hause Store and House, if indeed the buyers do work to maintain these structures before their re-marketing. There is also plaque interest for our school houses. The road crew will pick up the 21 boxes of historical books at Trish St Georges' and bring them to the township building.

9. Additional Items

Reminder: Info about this summer's CCHPN Town Tours and Village Walks, commencing June 17, is posted on CCHPN website, cchpn.org.

Lovely Lavender Season Peaks at nearby Historic Warwick Furnace Farm:
Check <https://www.warwickfurnacefarm.com>

(Reservations are needed to visit this beautiful lavender farm in Chester County with its shop of handmade lavender essential oil and botanical beauty products, pick-your-own lavender opportunities, along with other activities.)

Another Township Treasure: French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust has opened a three-mile walking trail on the Great Marsh Uplands

Preserve. The starting point and parking for this trail are located at 365 Templin Road, Elverson, PA 19520.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

The next HC meeting will be Tuesday, July 20, 2021, 7:00 PM, at the Township Building.

Kristine Gordon-Watson, Secretary

Maureen Noonan, Chairperson