

SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

January 23, 2017

COMMISSION MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Sandy Momyer, David Kiefer, John Gregory, Khalil Hihi, Dianne Cram, Jay Stearly, Ginny Stearly, Dorothy Bedford

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Barbara Cohen, Fred Parry, Martha Majewski, Susan Guerette, Jim Morrison

Meeting called to order by Sandy Momyer at 7:04pm.

Minutes from the November 2016 and December 2016 meetings were approved.

Fred Parry thanked the members of the Commission and expressed gratitude for the responsibility they take on. Two things he asked: That the vacancies on the Commission be filled and that we define what it deemed "historical" in the township.

Sandy welcomed Susan as the new liaison to the Commission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 2017 – 240th anniversary of the Philadelphia Campaign of the Revolutionary War
- August 24 – Town and Village Tours will be held in Valley Forge
- February 4 – Great Backyard Bird Count 9:30 at Township building
- November 4th – Founders Day

Chester County Historic Preservation Network – Sandy reported on the workshop where she and John had presented on cases that the Commission has tackled. John had spoken about the Anderson Barn court case and also mentioned the issue with Meadowbrook property. The site of the workshop was a great example of bringing back a condemned historic property and a restoration that was on-going for 18 years.

Sandy told us that the recognition dinner for CCHPN in the summer will be held at Yellow Springs.

Anderson Barn -John reported that the Zoning Hearing Board denied Mr. Meehan's appeal and upheld the ordinance. John suggested that since we have gone this far with upholding the ordinance that there is enforcement of the citation. The property has been in foreclosure and a public sale will be held on March 16th. The bank records the property as \$700,000 in arrears. The historical ordinance citation was appealed and upheld.

Fred requested that Bill Brennan be contacted prior to the sale. Susan offered to contact Mr. Brennan.

Barbara asked that Sandy contact Mary Bird to be sure that this is on the agenda for the next BOS meeting.

Trolley Station – Dianne reported on the recently completed phase of the restoration and stated that it is critical to purchase either space heaters or a de-humidifier to be run in the building as the weather begins to warm up to reduce any condensation buildup on the walls.

Jim Morrison commented on researching for period appropriate lighting fixtures for the interior.

Stream Naming Project – There are 13 unnamed streams in the Township. A workshop meeting was scheduled for February 21 at 7pm at the Township building. Dorothy Bedford will research some historic place names and make suggestions that can be given to EAC.

Town Tours – Sandy has been in contact with the organizers who plan to hold the tour in Valley Forge at Washington’s headquarters. They have requested that the Historical Commission be involved with the tour and provide information at a station along the tour on other Revolutionary War sites in the Township including the French Creek Bridge, Moore Hall and Bull Tavern. Sandy suggested that we draw up a map hand-out with information.

Old Business:

- 29 South Whitehorse Road – Sandy has written a memo to Mark Faulkner asking what steps will be taken and what we can do to get the ball rolling on enforcing the ordinance.
- 100 Creek Road – Historical Commission will set a date to visit the property.
- 100 Country Club Road – We will ask Mark to investigate what is happening with this property.
- Creek Road Bridge – Sandy and Dianne will follow up on contact information for Chester County’s plan for the bridge widening.

New Business:

- Paul Kusko from the Board of the Historical Society of Phoenixville presented his interest in the Native American settlement that was along the Schuylkill River on the north side of the Township. Mr. Kusko handed out a google map of the property where artifacts have been found that support the native Lenape culture and asked about the feasibility of the Township acquiring the property for protection.
- PASD Meadowbrook site – BOS members were asked to leave while this was discussed. Preservation Pennsylvania will announce on January 30 the “at risk” list which will include the Meadowbrook site. Discussions centered on:
 - the need for PASD to clean and repair the structures
 - expansion of the task force to include BOS members
 - provide a menu of available grants to PASD
 - potential meeting of realtors who may have contact with those interested in leasing possibilities.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Next meeting will be held on February 27th at 6:30 at the Township building.

Submitted by

Dianne M. Cram