

Schuylkill Township Historical Commission

Minutes of Meeting - July 17, 2017

Members Attending: Sandy Momyer, John Gregory, David Kiefer, Jay Stearly, Dianne Cram, Ginny Stearly, Dorothy Bedford

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

Minutes of the June meeting were approved pending one correction.

Announcements

- August 24 - Town Tours at Valley Forge Park
- August 26 - Valley Forge Fire Co. chicken BBQ
- September 14 – Schuylkill Township Police Dept. community meeting at PCC 7:30
- November 4 – Founders Day, PCC 11:00

Chester County Historical Preservation Network

Schuylkill Township Historical Commission was recognized at the June dinner. Sandy has sent a thank you note. Karen Marshall will use our ordinance as a model for training for Chester County. Sandy thanked all who attended including thanking Fred Parry for BOS support.

465 Clothier Springs Road

Owners Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Sullivan presented photographs and explanation of renovations and an addition to their house that was already underway. Notification of a demolition permit request had not been forwarded to HC by the Township office. Sandy explained that all alterations on historic structures required recommendation from the Historical Commission and that the owners were not given correct information when they applied for the permit. The owners presented plans showing an addition of a kitchen to the rear of the house that will compromise an existing original pier wall and windows on a circa 1890 portion of the home. Members of HC were invited to visit the property on July 20th at 5:30pm.

515 Valley Forge Road

Owner Richard Bateman has applied for a building permit to replace the roof destroyed in a recent fire. His plans are to replace the roof as it was not changing the appearance of the structure. Dorothy made a motion to approve these plans. Motion passed with all in favor.

25 Jug Hollow Road

Owner Nancy Funk is asking to have the property removed from the Class 2 historical survey list in order to make the property more desirable for sale since the historic house is in bad repair. John explained the process of having HC recommend to the BOS and that a hearing would be scheduled for the BOS meeting before a decision would be made. Questions on the actual ownership of the property were raised since Ms. Funk is the Executor of a will that will distribute the property to others in the family. Ms. Funk would need a letter from an attorney stating her right to decision making power for this property. An August 2, 5:00pm visit to the property was set.

Discussion followed as to why a property owner could request their property be removed from inclusion in the historical resource survey. Jay pointed out that allowing this property to be removed will set a precedent. John suggested that the Historical Ordinance could be dovetailed with a maintenance ordinance that would cover the issue of demolition by neglect.

Anderson Barn

There is no change in status and it is uncertain if the bank retains ownership at this point. Bill Brennan has not gotten back to HC to confirm and answers have not been forthcoming concerning subsequent citations being issued.

Phoenixville Area School District

PASD is in process of compiling a brochure advertising the property for lease. A clean-up day needs to be scheduled, a possible August 19th date was mentioned. Advertising the clean-up day will be one way to alert the public about this property in peril.

Trolley Station

A meeting with Andrew Gustine will be arranged to discuss moving forward to complete windows and further restoration.

Old Business

- Country Club & Route 23 property – Sandy has not had a report from Mark concerning the apparent demolition by neglect. A motion was made that the demolition by neglect of this property be brought to the attention of BOS so that it would be an agenda item at their meeting. Motion passed with all in favor.
- 29 South Whitehorse Rd. – Sandy had a report from Mark that some porch repairs were done. The property still appears to be neglected and suggestions for landscape care were made.

New Business

- Requests for 2018 budget needs are due to Mary by Sept. 1.
- Wawa – Their attorney could not be present to report this evening. So far Wawa has not worked out the plan for archaeology study proposed by Bob Wise that includes a ground penetrating radar study. John suggested that we push Wawa on this. It has been reported that Wawa has also purchased the Exxon station across the road for a proposed Walgreen store. The next hearing will be on August 23 and 29 at Valley Forge Fire Company. Payment to Bob Wise for his consulting service should be paid by Wawa.

Meeting adjourned at 9:26pm.

Submitted by
Dianne M. Cram

The next meeting will be held on August 15, 2016 at 7pm.