

**EAST COVENTRY TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
JANUARY 23, 2008
SCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES**

Attendance: Gail Brown (Chairman), Phyllis Snyder (Member), Ann Keen (Member), Elaine Preston (Secretary), Lynn Coine (Vice Chairman), Roy Kolb (Planning Commission Liaison,) (absent)

Meeting called to order 7:00 PM

Public Comment

Minutes

Members paused to review the minutes of December 12, 2007. Minutes submitted were first draft and did not include revisions.

P. Snyder motioned to table minutes of December 12, 2007

A. Keen seconded the motion

The motion was approved unanimously. 5-0-0

Members paused to review the minutes of January 9, 2008

A. Keen motioned to approve the minutes of January 9, 2008 with amendments

P. Snyder seconded the motion

L. Coine abstained as she was not present at the January 9, 2008 meeting

Motion passed 4-0-1

Reports

G. Brown did not have the Annual Report completed for review. Tabled.

Action Items

P. Snyder presented a copy of the letter and final report for 2008 calendar sales to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors.

G. Brown received a notice from the Chester County Historical Society for payment of dues. Dues were to have been paid by the Township in December of 2007. G. Brown will ask for verification of payment from the Township.

G. Brown had found a very good article for explanation of Class I Historical Classification and how it affects the property owner. Suggested we include excerpts from this article in our proposed document to be included or referenced with Zoning Change Notification.

Discussion Items

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G. Brown asked the Historical Commission Members for their feelings on the Fricks Lock Stakeholders Meeting today at the Schuylkill River Heritage Association. P. Snyder was very encouraged by the Stakeholders meeting. A. Keen felt that Fricks Locks is not a lost cause and money should be available in the form of grants. E. Preston, L. Coine were discouraged by the meeting because Chester County Parks and Recreation reported their advisory committee was in favor of new construction and not rehabilitation of existing structures for a new Park Ranger Facility. G. Brown was also disappointed by the advisory committee recommendation, but also noted that Chester County Parks and Recreation had agreed to meet with PECO representatives at Fricks Locks to access the buildings in Fricks Locks and consider whether one of the existing structures could be considered for a Ranger Facility. G. Brown stated she was also disappointed no one was present representing Township Management, the Board of Supervisors, or Parks and Recreation. G. Brown also stated it is unfortunate the Historical Commission is no longer in possession of the log of concerned citizens for Fricks Locks from the two Chester County Tours of Fricks Locks. G. Brown was encouraged by PECO's support of issuance of citations for trespass and vandalism at Fricks Locks Village. G. Brown and E. Preston were encouraged that 'NO TRESPASSING SIGNS' had again been posted at Fricks Locks. G. Brown is to follow-up with Chester County. The next meeting of the Stakeholders meeting is April 6, 2008 at 2:00 PM.

G. Brown inquired about the progress on the Historical Commission files. Members will continue to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday mornings.

G. Brown asked everyone to review their packages entitled 'Historic Property Inventory Files Education and Training' which were distributed after the October 2006 training classes. This will come up for discussion at a later date.

Other Business

G. Brown gave an update to members on the current status of the Green Acres sidewalk issue. The solicitor representing Green Acres proposed a \$5,400.00 fee in lieu of sidewalks to be deposited in the General Fund. The township consulting engineer, ARRO, stated nothing had been submitted to ARRO to calculate a 'fee in lieu of' for the sidewalks. G. Brown stated the Historical Commission had supported waiver of the sidewalks. Although the developers had been sensitive to the Historical Resources, the Historical Commission felt the enforcement of sidewalks would jeopardize the old barn and the Historical Commission was prepared to request a 'Historic Impact Study' per the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. After discussion, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion to accept a 'fee in lieu of' sidewalks calculated by the Consulting Engineer to be deposited as determined by the Board of Supervisors. Further PENDOT would be responsible for the cost of sidewalks should they be added in the future.

P. Snyder made a motion to rescind the October 24, 2007 motion requesting an Impact Study on the Green Acres house and barn.

L. Coine seconded the motion

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Motion passed 4-0-1

G. Brown stated she had seen several Historical Commission pages on Chester County Township websites. A few examples of what other townships have developed were presented and discussed. L. Coine volunteered to discuss this possibility with Township Administrative Personnel and begin development of a Historical Commission web page.

T. Roland, Township Supervisor, had informed G. Brown that the property behind his home was going up for 'Sheriffs Sale'. Mr. Roland was concerned for this property. G. Brown responded, the Board of Supervisors need to approve the Historic Resource Atlas. The Historical Commission appreciates Mr. Rolands' input and concern for our Historic Resources and will follow-up on this property.

G. Brown announced Chester County Parks and Recreation Department is offering a "Town Tours & Village Walks How to Workshop" Saturday, February 9, 2007. Was anyone interested in attending. No one is able to attend.

E. Preston read three thank-you notes written by A. Keen on the behalf of the Historical Commission to Ronald Elliott, Walt Wocssner, and Lynn Coine.

The following books were donated to the East Coventry Historical Commission reference files:

L. Coine donated a book titled "Sears House Designs of the Thirties" by Sears and Roebuck and Co

G. Brown donated "Early Domestic Architecture of Pennsylvania" by Eleanor Raymond; "Coventry, The Skool Kill District - A Basic History of the Three Coventry Townships 1700-1850" by Estelle Crefters and Pamela Shenk; "Amazing Pennsylvania Canals" by William H. Shank; and another Canal book.

P. Snyder submitted the framed picture of the two boys at Fricks Locks for the files. She thought Sharon Cossaboon may already have a copy of the picture. She will verify. If she doesn't have a copy, the Historical Commission will have a copy made for her with our thanks to Sharon for returning this document to the Historical Commission.

Adjournment

L. Coine motioned to adjourn

P. Snyder seconded the motion

The motion was approved unanimously. 5-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Elaine C. Preston
Secretary
East Coventry Township Historical Commission