

**EAST COVENTRY TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
February 11, 2009
SCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES**

(Pledge of Allegiance)

Attendance: Gail Brown (Chairman), Lynn Coine (Member- Absent), Ann Keen (Member), Jim Michael (Vice Chairman), Rugene Caldwell (Member-Absent), L. Tietjen (Member- Absent), Rich Marchetti (Member), Phyl Snyder (Secretary)

Meeting called to order at 7:13 PM

Public Comments

RoseMarie Miller (Chairman of East Coventry Township Supervisors) was a visitor. Manrico A. Troncelliti, Jr (lawyer), Richard Kentwell (developer), and Joe Neister (Engineer), all gentlemen representing WC Eagles (88 Wells Road LLC).

Minutes

Minutes of January 14, 2009 were reviewed

J. Michael made the motion to accept the minutes, as amended.

R. Marchetti seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously 5-0-0.

Action Items

G. Brown to respond to inquiries from the East Coventry residents.

We do not have a photograph of Bellview Schoolhouse, will continue searching. G. Brown to check Chester County archives.

Updates:

1. G. Brown/A. Keen/P/ Snyder - Welcome Letter Status – no action
2. G. Brown/R. Caldwell – Research Status – no action
R. Marchetti – deed research – no action
3. J. Michael/P. Snyder – Historical Commission web page status - good progress, will have a sample next meeting
4. G. Brown Chester County Public Speaker Program Status – Members concurred a June date would be preferable, July second choice. Members discussed the possibility of advertising in the Township Newsletter if published prior to scheduled program date.
5. P. Snyder/R. Caldwell – Oral Histories Status – G. Brown asked B. Rodgers, Township Manager what audio and video equipment is owned by the Township. His response was - not much, but equipment could be verified by the insurance records. He suggested we could make a list of the equipment we would need.
Per Mrs. Miller, Gerald Williams recorded an oral history by Alfred Shantz about the Duck

Farm. Mrs. Miller will locate Mr. Williams' home telephone number for more information. Members also discussed the Harvey Kulp video tape which is still in the possession of a previous Historical Commission member.

6. G. Brown – Account status with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) reproduction costs – G. Brown discussed setting up an account with the PHMC January 20, 2009 with B. Rodgers. Mr. Rodgers asked for an estimate. Since an inventory of the PHMC holdings which relate to East Coventry Township and a count of materials to be reproduced would double the time and effort of the individual conducting research in Harrisburg, G. Brown suggested we established a monetary amount, perhaps not to exceed \$400.00.

J. Michael made a motion to request the Township set up an account with the PHMC not to exceed \$500.00. A. Keen seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0-0. G. Brown to propose to the Board of Supervisors (BOS).

7. G. Brown – proposed East Vincent/East Coventry joint Parker Ford Town Tour 2010. G. Brown again asked the members if they would be interested in a joint tour with East Vincent. As the Schuylkill River Trail will eventually be passing through Parker Ford, It would be beneficial for East Coventry to include our history in the 2010 tour. With the purchase of Mrs. Tudor's home by Chester County for use as a ranger station and East Vincent replacing the roof and making repairs to the tavern, they are on their way to taking advantage of the prospects the trail may provide for recognition and income. It was suggested we could use some of the information from our last tour, but add additional information and properties to the new tour. Oak Grove Cemetery would be a good addition and J. Michael already has information.

M. Michael made a motion to join with East Vincent for a Parker Ford Town Tour in 2010. P. Snyder seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unanimously 5-0-0.

8. G. Brown – Update on Historical Planner Consultant – G. Brown stated ARRO is now the planning consultant for East Coventry. Per the January 20, 2009 meeting with B. Rodgers, M. Hosterman, and R. Preston, B. Rodgers suggested the Township could use a Historical Planning Consultant to represent the Township with Fricks Locks negotiations. G. Brown suggested we could use a consultant on other historical issues. Mr. Rodgers to pursue.

Subdivision and Land Development

WC Eagles (88 Wells Road)

Mr. Troncelliti, Jr. distributed copies of a Historical Investigation report from A.D. Marble and Company regarding the proposed field hockey facility at 88 Wells Road. M. Kentwell showed plans of the area. The November 4, 2008 letter from the PHMC was discussed. This letter stated in part, "Known archaeological resources are located in your project area and others are likely to exist. The P.A.S.S. numbers for these archaeological resources are listed below. A Phase I archaeological survey of the project area to verify the extent of known sites and to locate any other potentially significant archaeological resources the may exist is recommended but not required. "In our opinion no historic buildings/structures/districts/objects will be affected by this project.

Per the last sentence above, all concurred a 'Historic Resource Impact Study' is not required as addressed by the BOS. The BOS did require a Phase I archaeological survey of the canal bed. WC Eagles representative did state the 'Historical Investigation' by A. D. Marble is an impact study as they thought that was what the BOS wanted at their January meeting. Both Mr. Kentwell and G.

Brown had received further e-mails from the PHMC stating the specifics of the request for the Phase I Study. The PHMC stated their recommendation for a Phase I survey does not concern the canal. They did state, "A prehistoric archaeological site (36Ch 634) is located within the 88 Wells Road, LLC project area. This site was recorded in our files in 1991. Based on the recovery of temporally diagnostic stone projectile points recovered from the ground surface of a plowed field, this appears to be a multi-component site with Middle Archaic (6500-3000 BC), Transitional (3000-1500 BC) and late Woodland (AD 1000-1550) components. Informant information suggests this a potentially significant archaeological site. As per PA DEP policy, a Phase I archaeological survey is recommended by the SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) but not required by PA DEP as a condition of its permits and approvals."

The Historical Commission agreed to 'table' action on this item until further information could be provided to the BOS.

G. Brown to forward information to the BOS.

Discussion

Fricks Locks Stakeholders Update

G. Brown met with B. Rodgers, M. Hosterman, and R. Preston, January 20, 2009 to discuss preparation for a public hearing to address the PECO/Exelon retro-demolition permits for Fricks Locks. Current extension February 28, 2009. G. Brown requested Mr. Hosterman to meet with the Historical Commission to review the proper hearing procedure as the Historical Commission has not previously conducted a hearing. Mr. Hosterman will be in attendance for the hearing when it takes place.

G. Brown asked for written direction to address review of retro-demolition permits. (This direction was received February 3, 2009 in a correspondence from M. Hosterman)

G. Brown asked when a police contract would be finalized for security for Fricks Locks. (This item was addressed in correspondence received from M. Hosterman, February 3, 2009. He advised the Township move forward with the agreement.)

The February 3, 2009 letter addressing security further addressed a 90-day extension for the retro-demolition permits (G. Brown received correspondence dated February 2, 2009 from Mr. Halderman, Exelon, extending the permits to May 29, 2009.)

Exelon should be receiving an estimate of costs in which to implement step one of a proposal for Preservation of Fricks Locks Village.

G. Brown also requested PA Preservation be contacted as recommended by the PHMC.
Permission granted.

Chester County Parks and Recreation – Town Tours and Village Walks -2009

EC Historical Commission will volunteer to assist other townships with their Town Tours and Village Walks.

CCHPN 2009 Volunteer Recognition Dinner will be held on June 24, 2009

G. Brown asked members to reserve this date on their calendars.

Workshops

G. Brown shared a "hand-out" of Chester County Historic Preservation Network's (CCHPN) Spring Workshop – March 14, 2009: "Grants and Funding, What You Need to Know".

Dill's Tavern Preservation is presenting Workshops from May through August.

Other Business

J. Michael will present a history of our area to the seventh graders at Owen J. Roberts Middle School on March 17th - 19th, 2009.

2008 Annual Report (postponed from earlier)

G. Brown submitted the annual report to all members for review and approval.

P. Snyder made the motion to accept the Annual Report for 2008. J. Michael seconded the motion. The motion was accepted 5-0-0.

A copy of the new Zoning Ordinance was given to all members present for reference.

Adjournment

P. Snyder made the motion to adjourn. J. Michael seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phyllis Snyder
Secretary