

**EAST COVENTRY TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
November 12, 2008
SCHEDULED Meeting Minutes**

(Pledge of Allegiance)

Attendance: Gail Brown (Chairman), Lynn Coine (Vice Chairman-Absent), Ann Keen (Member), Roy Kolb (Liason-Planning Commission), Rugene Caldwell (Member), Rich Marchetti (Member), Jim Michael (Member-Absent), Larry Tietjen (Member), Phyl Snyder (Secretary)

Minutes

Rough draft of Minutes of October 8, 2008 were reviewed and tabled until next meeting.

Public Comments:

Bill Gordon (1070 Old Schuylkill Road), Jim Hacker (776 Schoolhouse Road), and Faith Robinson (148 Fulmer Road) were present as visitors.

Action Items:

- 2009 Historical Commission Budget – Discussed.
The budget has been advertised. Commission may be able to make line item adjustments after being advertised as long as the total budget is not exceeded. Discussion followed as to whether the Historical Commission would develop a calendar for 2010 or possibly another informative publication. It was also discussed whether adjustments should be made for bookcase, training, programs, etc. It was the consensus of the Board to leave the budget as is.
- Fricks Lock Stakeholders Update
No changes to line items were recommended.
Meeting for November 2008. was cancelled by Exelon Representative Alisa Harris-Daniels, Regional Government Affairs Manager, Exelon Generation, via e-mail November 10, 2008 to the Fricks Locks Steering Committee Members. Per the e-mail, they are anticipating an updated report from Frens and Frens. Meeting to be rescheduled.
- Historic Program Memberships:
Proposed renewal of the Historical Commission memberships to the Chester County Historical Society (CCHS) and the Chester County Historical Preservation Network (CCHPN). These organizations have been essential in records research and training. G. Brown asked if the members would like to consider an additional membership this year – possibly PA Preservation or the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). L. Tietjen made a motion to renew memberships to the CCHS and CCHPN and add the PHMC. R.Caldwell seconded the motion. The motion was approved 7-0-0.

- Historical Commission Township Website Page – J. Michael/P. Snyder – no activity
- Listing of Historical Reference – G. Brown – no activity
- Historical Commission Welcome Package – G. Brown/R. Caldwell – no activity

The Historic Resource Map had been a priority before the previous three items. G. Brown suggested we prioritize for 2009.

- Reproduction of 1981 Historic Resource Survey's CCHS and review reproduction of East Coventry's Historical Photographs. G. Brown stated per discussion with Township Manager, B. Rodgers; he agreed the 1981 Historic Resource Survey's at the CCHS need to be reproduced for the township Historical Commission file. Also, G. Brown to review photographs at the CCHS for possible reproduction. As relates to the Historic Resource Surveys, the professionalism and training of the 1981 volunteers and the Historical Commission members was questioned in the preparation of the Historic Resource Map. Grant money is available to contract professional services for these surveys. Other Townships have contracted these services. G. Brown recommended the Historical Commission work with the Township Administration and Board of Supervisors to pursue this effort in the new year. Also, tapes by J. Davidson need to be transferred to another audio media as the tapes are frail.

Discussion Items:

- Historic Resource Rejection
 G. Brown congratulated the Historical Commission Members on the Historic Resource Map. She reminded members that they were given a deadline to complete the map (which was put forward two weeks) and of the 555 properties listed there were only two mistakes, both Class III. We did meet our commitment.
 As stated previously, we need to pursue grants and contracting a professional agency for the Historic Resource Surveys.
 The Historical Commission, while responsible for the Historic Resource Map, found themselves trying to defend Zoning Article XII. The Article was approved August 11, 2008 and should have been addressed by the Township Planner and the Board of Supervisors. Administrative procedures for implementing the ordinance need to be established and coordinated between Township Administration, Zoning Officials, and the Historical Commission as approved by the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors did appoint a new Zoning Contractor for the Township which has experience with ordinances which include Historic Resources.
 Prior to the October 8, 2008 meeting, the Historical Commission was given a list of twenty persons who had called the Township about the Historic Resource Map. Included in this list were the two families who had sent e-mails and the two families who had sent letters. Only two, besides the correspondence and e-mails, included concerns. G. Brown asked Mr. Rodgers about the Official Objection Letter and the Thank You Letter as indicated on the NotHistoric webpage. Mr. Rodgers said he was unaware of these letters and apologized as he has been tied up with the budget.

- We look forward to working with the Township in 2009 to address public concerns put forth at the October 13, 2008 Board of Supervisors meeting.
- Faith Robinson (Visitor) contributed several worthwhile suggestions for the Historical Commission to pursue for outreach to our community.
- Jim Hacker (Visitor) spoke about his historical heritage in East Coventry. He was born in the Schuylkill Canal Lock Tender's house in Parker Ford. This house still stands along Linfield Road. Mr. Hacker has lived here all his life. He told us of very interesting recollections of the township as it was when he was growing up – specifically the Schuylkill Canal area. Recollections such as Mr. Hacker's bring home to our community the richness of our heritage. We hope to pursue documenting memories of our long standing citizens.
- Further discussion included the possibility of a Calendar for 2010 – examples were presented. Also, a copy of a book on Pughtown was shown as an example of something similar we may want to pursue in the future.

Subdivision and Land Development

- Bittersweet on Schuylkill LLC – Sanatoga Road – 4 units
Proposal for acceptance of the Sketch Plan for review was considered by the Planning Commission.
- Maack Property – Maack Road
The Parks and Recreation proposal for purchase of the remainder of the Maack property from Mr. Gambone was discussed at the Board of Supervisors meeting November 10, 2008. The awards for the DCNR grants had not yet been announced, but the grant applications to Chester County needed to be sent to coordinate with the DCNR grant if awarded. The Township match has been increased from \$50,000.00 to \$100,000.00 with no explanation given at the Board of Supervisors meeting. B. Preston suggested Mr. Gambone be approached to donate the additional \$50,000.00. Mr. Rinehart suggested the Township would accept the \$50,000.00 donation from other donors. Mr. Tietjen noted he had previously talked with the Township about putting forth the \$50,000.00 with an easement to the Township. G. Brown noted the Township may not have pursued this offer because of restrictions of the grant

Other Business

Karen Marshall, Chester County Historic Preservation Coordinator, gave G. Brown several copies of the “Chester County Department of Community Development – Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Programs”. Karen was concerned as many of East Coventry's citizens had monetary concerns about the impact of the Historic Resource Map. Although the Historic Resource Map was not approved we still are in this time of global financial uncertainty concerned about financial assistance. This pamphlet lists five organizations. These programs

apply to homes of any age. The first program listed may offer up to \$25,000.00 assistance for local code violations. All programs have income restrictions. G. Brown to ask B. Rodgers, Township Manger, to post on the Township website – www.eastcoventy-pa.gov.

Special Thank You

The Historical Commission wants to give a special thank you to Faith Robinson and Jim Hacker for their contributions. We do appreciate their giving up their time to attend and offer suggestions and information to our Historical Commission meeting.

Adjournment

Ann Keen made the motion to adjourn. R. Caldwell seconded the motion. The motion was approved 7-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phyllis Snyder
Secretary