

**EAST COVENTRY TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
July 8, 2009
SCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES**

(Pledge of Allegiance)

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

Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM.

Public Comments - None

Minutes

Minutes of June 10, 2009 were reviewed. L. Coine made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. A. Keen seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously 5-0-0.

Action Items

Historical Preservation Planning Consultant

G Brown distributed the resumes of Bob Wise and Jane Davidson, whom the Township Board of Supervisors interviewed for the position of Historical Preservation Planning Consultant for East Coventry Township on Monday July 5, 2009. Commission members who attended the interviews were G. Brown, L. Coine, L. Tietjen, R Caldwell A. Keen. After reviewing the resumes and sharing insights from the interviews, R. Caldwell made a motion to recommend Jane Davidson to the Board of Supervisors for the position of Township Historical Preservation Planning Consultant. J. Michael seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0-0. A letter of recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, prepared by G. Brown, was completed and all Commission members present signed it.

Oral Histories

After reviewing several samples of release forms to be used for oral history interviews, J. Michael made a motion to submit the sample from Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission to Township Solicitor, Mr. Hosterman to review. L. Tietjen seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously 5-0-0.

R. Caldwell and P Snyder are developing a list of potential contributors

R. Caldwell has spoken with Township Administrative Assistant, B. Frisco, regarding how the Township keeps archival records and was informed that all Townships records are preserved as paper copies.

Welcome Letter

J. Michael made a motion to forward the sample Welcome letter and the list of Historical References that will be included to Township solicitor, Mr. Hosterman, for review. A Keen seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0-0.

Chester County Speaker Program “Old Photograph Workshop”

In preparation for this workshop to be held at the Township Building at 7 pm on July 22, 2009, the news article which R. Caldwell prepared and sent to Pat Sommers at the Pottstown Mercury, was published on Saturday July 4, 2009. Also G. Brown and R. Caldwell delivered flyers about the workshop to businesses

and churches throughout the Township. L. Coine will prepare a sign-in sheet for attendees and oversee refreshments. A. Keen, R. Caldwell & G. Brown assist by preparing some finger food. R. Caldwell has gotten the Historic Commission calendars from Elaine Preston and will prepare a sign to set out with them, saying attendees are welcome to take copies and a donation would be appreciated. R. Caldwell, A. Keen, & G. Brown agreed to arrive at 6:30 pm to help L. Coine with set-up.

Subdivision and Land Development

Planning Commission Update

L. Tietjen, Member/Planning Commission Liaison, reported that the Planning Commission is reviewing Ordinances for solar and wind electric generation. There is beginning to be more interest in this because of a possible tax break in the near future for home owners, if the PA legislature passes a bill for it.

Bittersweet on the Schuylkill

At the Zoning Board hearing on Bittersweet on Schuylkill, proposed Senior facility, it became questionable as to the intent of the facility – would it be 24 hours care and meet the intent of the Zoning Ordinance. This is a proposed 116 bed facility, one building with a possibility of two more buildings in the future. Citizens expressed many concerns, such as: 1) Increased traffic; 2) No public sewer - would a proposed drip sewage system be adequate for this use and what would be the impact of such a system on the neighborhood; 3) No public water - would wells support a facility this large, including a firewater system, and what would be the impact on neighboring wells, 4) With only one exit to a major road (Rt. 724), would they be able to evacuate everyone in the case of an emergency at the nuclear plant. Many exhibits were withdrawn and a future Conditional Use Hearing was scheduled for July 16, 2009.

Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance (SALDO)

Proposed revision to SALDO does not list the Historical Commission as a standard recipient of a Planning Package, but is at the discretion of the Township Engineering Consultant to determine whether the Historical Commission receives a copy of the package. As SALDO references the Historic Resource Map, which has been approved, this would limit the Historical Commission review to Class I – National Register and National Register Eligible properties. The Department of Environment Protection (DEP) Cultural Resource Form requires all historical properties fifty (50) years or older to be identified and photographed. These properties and photographs are to be submitted to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) for review. This document is part of the Sewage Module and may not be presented until Final Review. The Historical Commission needs to address all properties over 50 years old at the initial submission of a proposed subdivision to assure the developer complies with the DEP requirements and also review subsequent PHMC correspondence. Historic Impact Studies should be considered by the Historical Commission for recommendation to the Board of Supervisors in the early stages of development review. Should the Board of Supervisors appoint a Historic Preservation Consultant, the consultant should review SALDO for historical impact.

Discussion Items

Fricks Locks Stakeholders and Permit Hearings

G. Brown reported that the next meeting will be held on Monday, July 13, 2009, 10 am, at the Schuylkill River Heritage Building in Pottstown and distributed the agenda. It has been a year since they have met and we do not know what Exelon will submit. David Kimberly, a new member representing Preservation PA, is expected to attend. G. Brown and L. Coine will represent the East Coventry Historical Commission and G. Brown will present an update for East Coventry. Also, Township Solicitor, Mr. Hosterman and Township Manager, B. Rogers are expected to attend.

Contributions to the East Coventry Historical Commission

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Kurtas donated to the Historical Commission a collection of old pictures, postcards, documents and a complete 1883 Chester County Atlas collected from 1907 through 1956. These documents contribute a significant insight into the travels and events experienced by an East Coventry family during this era. G. Brown did a complete inventory of the items and distributed copies to the members. This is a significant contribution to the Historical Commission inventory.

We thank Mr. and Mrs. Kurtas and encourage residents to contribute to the inventory

Chester county Historic Preservation Network (CCHPN) 2009 Volunteer Celebration

The East Coventry Historical Commission was presented with the 2009 Achievement Award for its participation in the GIS Historic Atlas Program.

Historical Commission Budget Discussion

G. Brown passed out copies of the budget expenditures to-date. Members are to review the budget and prepare for discussion and preparation of proposed budget for 2010 for the September meeting.

Historical Commission Files/Archives

G. Brown distributed a list of sources for archival-quality conservation materials. She has requested several catalogues. With the receipt of original photographs, postcards, etc, we will need to protect these items.

G. Brown also donated to the Historical Commission Library a new book titled, "Classification Guide for Arrow heads and Spear points of Eastern Pennsylvania and Central Middle Atlantic".

A. Keen and P Snyder continue to work most Wednesday mornings on the Historical Commission files and archives. Louise Tietjen has volunteered to transfer the archives inventory to a computer, but we need equipment. R. Caldwell suggested that the Commission consider purchasing a laptop computer for inventory and other Historical Commission use.

Copies of photographs available for purchase from the Chester County Historical Society were presented by Gail Brown. Several photographs were Historical Pictures of local churches. Several members are to contact local churches to inquire whether they have historical photographs and would be interested in allowing the Historical Commission to obtain copies. A review of Chester County Historical Society (CCHS) photographs for recommendation for addition to our files will be addressed at a future meeting.

Correspondence from Arcadia Publishing

G. Brown distributed a letter from Arcadia Publishing offering an opportunity to publish a book about East Coventry. This information is for review and will be discussed at a future meeting.

Other Business

None

Adjournment

L. Tietjen made the motion to adjourn. L Coine seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 5-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rugene Caldwell