

**EAST COVENTRY HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
SCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2022**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:08 P.M. BY L. TIETJEN, CHAIRMAN**

**ATTENDANCE:**

L. Tietjen (Chairman), C. Subick, P. Price

Public Attendees: Gail Brown, Liz Willow, Karen Nocella

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MINUTES:**

Review of the minutes from the July 12, 2022 regular Historical Commission meeting. No corrections or additions noted. LT made a motion to approve, PP seconded. Approved 3-0-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Liz Willow has met with Dave Kraynik regarding the Revolutionary War cemetery on Ellis Woods Road which is currently owned by the Joint Veterans Council of Pottstown (JVC). JVC would like to transfer ownership of the cemetery to East Coventry Township. JVC is pursuing grant funding to facilitate the purchase in preparation for rededication of the cemetery in 2024.

**NEW BUSINESS**

LT reported on relevant discussions at the September 12, 2022 Board of Supervisors meeting.

- The only item relevant to the Historical Commission was the informal presentation of a proposed mixed-use development for the Villages of Fricks Locks development discussed at the July 12 Historical Commission meeting.

Karen Nocella presented information regarding the Fall Festival event that Parks & Recreation is planning for October 22 at Fricks Locks. The event will coincide with the final tour date for the year.

- K. Nocella is distributing flyers to area businesses and the event has been advertised on the Park.net website and the Friends of East Coventry Facebook page.
- Attendance at Parks & Rec events is typically 50-60 people.
- CS to provide Fricks Locks tour script to K. Nocella for trivia contest.
- The event is expected to include trick or treating in Fricks Locks, pumpkin painting, music and limited food.
- CS suggested contacting Chief Mossman regarding traffic control at the event to avoid conflicts with the Schuylkill Trail traffic.

LT requested an electronic copy of the Historic Resource Map for East Coventry. He would also like to have a copy of the booklet generated from the 1981 resource survey. The township may have an electronic copy or we may have to go to the county for a copy.

There was no discussion of the Township Engineer's Report this month as there are no current items pertinent to the Commission.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **INQUIRIES**

Information has been requested for 1234 Old Schuylkill Rd. LT needs keys to access archive cabinets. PP to bring keys to next meeting.

## **PLANNING COMMISSION**

Informal presentation of the Villages at Fricks Locks development prior to preliminary planning and engineering. The developers presented four options:

- Two options fall under the uses "by right" if the company purchases the property including office/industrial park
- Two options will require variances or other accommodations
- The developers preferred solution would include an amendment to allow mixed uses not currently allowed and a mix of 120 twin and 120 single homes in exchange for the donation of open spaces for athletic fields.
- A historic impact study will be required due to the proximity to Gail Brown's property. Gail expressed concern regarding the distance requirements for the new homes and associated streets. A significant buffer will be required regardless of the final use.
- The Planning Commission can make recommendations but the Board of Supervisors will have to approve the plan. Karen Nocella indicated that the Board is open to the option requiring mixed use.

## **COMMITTEES**

Fricks Locks Subcommittee

CS gave a report of the Fricks Locks Subcommittee meeting held on July 18

- Security system is still under negotiation
- The subcommittee is open to allowing local artists to come and paint at the village on scheduled tour dates

- The committee discussed the possibility of putting Plexiglas over first floor windows to deter vandalism but it is possible that Plexiglas barriers may encourage vandals to escalate damage.
- The subcommittee discussed whether or not to publicize the vandalism at Fricks Locks in hopes of generating information regarding possible culprits. Chief Mossman felt that publicizing the vandalism would call attention to the fact that the site is unprotected. The subcommittee agreed to publicize the installation of the security system once it is complete.
- Lack of timely landscape maintenance prior to schedule tour dates was brought to Jordan Rajan's attention. He will contact their landscaping contractor to remind them of remaining scheduled dates.

Fricks Locks Volunteer Committee No update

Archives Committee PP to bring keys to the next meeting

Oral History Committee No update

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

CS asked about the possibility of forming a Friends of Fricks Locks or similar group to accept donations. Several visitors have asked about donating. LT expressed concern regarding the amount of paperwork required to track cash donations, etc. CS to contact Jill, the East Coventry Township accountant regarding possible options to receive donations.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made to adjourn at 8:38 PM by CS, seconded by LT. Motion approved 3-0-0

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Subick  
Secretary