

**EAST COVENTRY TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
March 26, 2008
Scheduled Meeting Minutes**

(Pledge of Allegiance)

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

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM.

Public Comment

- Liz Willow, Ellis Woods Road, attended as an interested citizen.

Minutes

- Minutes of February 27, 2008 – Tabled (Elaine Preston was not present at February 27, 2008 Meeting.)

Special Request

Elaine Preston, per special request, regretfully read her resignation letter to the Historical Commission members. Elaine has served the Historical Commission as a volunteer for many years and has served as a member since 2006. Elaine presented a gracious letter and has offered to volunteer with the Historical Commission on occasion in the future.

G. Brown asked Elaine if she would mind if we addressed one of our action items before we took a vote on her resignation. Elaine graciously allowed this item.

P. Snyder volunteered to take minutes.

Subdivision and Land Development

- Painter Tract – Tabled
- Telvil Hall – Tabled

Action Items

- G. Brown opened discussion to which Historical Resource in East Coventry Township the Historical Commission would like to have represented on the Historic Resource Atlas. A. Keen suggested the “Lock Tender’s House” in Fricks Locks National Register Historic District. As Fricks Locks Village is the most significant Historic Resource in East Coventry Township and the Lock Tender’s House has recently suffered from a fire, all members concurred it should be honored on the atlas. A. Keen is to sketch the Lock Tender’s House for the atlas. E. Preston made the motion for A. Keen to sketch the Lock Tenders House in Frisks Locks Village for representation on the East Coventry Township Historic Resource Atlas to be submitted to A. Bedrick, Chester County Historic Preservation Network (CCHPN). P. Snyder seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

- G. Brown asked for a motion to accept E. Preston's resignation. P. Snyder regretfully made the motion to accept E. Preston's beautiful letter of resignation. A. Keen seconded the motion. Motion was carried 4-0.
- At this point, G. Brown notified all members we no longer had a quorum and should adjourn. Members requested we go on to discussion items. G. Brown cautioned all members that no decisions can be made without a quorum.
- Nomination of new Historical Commission member – tabled until next meeting.
- G. Brown noted she is preparing packages for citizens who have made requests for information and could use some help to distribute. P. Snyder agreed to help. G. Brown noted we are behind in our responses to requests and need to expedite in the future.
- Information for citizens relating to the Historic Resource Atlas – tabled.
- G. Brown and P. Snyder briefly discussed the Chester County Historical Preservation Workshop they attended on March 8, 2008.

Discussion Items

- L. Coine – Lynn could not be present tonight as she had to work – tabled.
- G. Brown reported that she received the membership cards from the Chester County Historical Society. She also received two Complementary tickets for special exhibits.
- P. Snyder reported that more calendars were sold. We are only \$5.00 short of paying the printing expenses. G. Brown stated that she has already sold another calendar which will meet our expenses with \$2.00 profit.
- Inventory of Historical Commission artifacts had been started by E. Preston. Elaine will coordinate when someone is chosen to continue this task.
- G. Brown stated she had attended the Zoning Workshop Meeting of February 28, 2008 and discussed the situation at Fricks Locks Village with the Board of Supervisors. The National Register Status of Fricks Locks Village and the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1996 could have been included in the letter had the Historical Commission been consulted. Mr. Tim Roland and Mr. Bob Preston felt it was unfortunate that the letter had gone out without consulting all the members of the Board of Supervisors as East Coventry Township is currently in negotiations with PECO/Exelon concerning Fricks Locks Village. G. Brown requested a copy of the letter and was given a copy by Bob Preston. G. Brown passed out the letter of February 25, 2008 "Notice of Violation". This letter is an order to close up and render safe the listed structures, accessory structures, or wells not shown on property details within 10 days of receipt. On March 24, 2008 G. Brown requested a copy of PECO/Exelon's response to the letter of February 25, 2008. A few days later she received two (2) letters. The first letter was dated March 3, 2008 from PECO/Exelon to the Code Official requesting a thirty (30) day extension and stated their proposals to cure the safety violation. Exelon also stated they had observed approximately seven pickup trucks unloading all terrain vehicles on the site over the week-end. The third letter was a response from the Zoning Officer to PECO/Exelon. This letter detailed remedial actions agreed upon between PECO/Exelon and the Code Official and a ten (10) consecutive day extension. All three letters were passed out to members of the Historical Commission. The letter of February 25, 2008 stated, "No Demolition is to take place until approvals can be made regarding the Historic Nature of the Location" and the letter of March 20, 2008 states: "at this time no Demolition of properties is permitted". Unfortunately, this action was not coordinated with the Fricks Locks Stakeholders and may jeopardize further negotiations. To date negotiations had established a possible long term contract for Fricks Locks Village, a spur off the Schuylkill River Trail, and interpretive signage at the structures. The Historical Commission is following this situation and has requested to be notified of any actions or negotiations in relation to the safety issues. County and State officials have been notified of this situation.

- The Historic Resource Map has been submitted to the Chester County Planning Commission for review. The Township had requested Parcel Numbers be added on the map. Chester County Parks and Recreation Department complied and Karen Marshall delivered two (2) large maps and had a PDF. File sent to the township for five (5) smaller maps to be printed for the Board of Supervisors.

Other Business

- William Brinton from Carlyle, PA requested permission to visit Fricks Locks. This request was forwarded to Mr. B.Rodgers, Township Manager. Mr. Britton was notified that because of the current safety situation, it would not be advisable to tour Fricks Locks Village at this time, but to call back later. Mr. Britton sent G. Brown an article published in the Philadelphia Inquirer on August 22, 2000 about Fricks Locks which was very optimistic about restoring this historical site in 2000.
- G. Brown passed out literature about the summer classes presented by various organizations.
 1. Landis Valley – Seminars and Workshops in Traditional Arts and Trades –
June 16 – 20, 2008
 2. Historical Restoration – Older Home Maintenance, Woodworking, Furniture Making
June 21 – Nov. 23, 2008
 3. Dills Tavern – PA Stonework, Timber Frame Repairs, Rye Straw Basket Making,
Installing Wood Shingles
May 29 – June 15, 2008 Basket Making date to be announced

P. Snyder will make copies to put in the Township Building for interested people.
- G. Brown stated as we have submitted the Historic Resource Map and Subdivision and Land Development has slowed down, everyone deserves a rest and was considering one meeting a month and the second meeting as needed. The current draft for Article XII states “shall be two (2) meetings a month”. She will address this issue with the Zoning Workshop Members.
- The Historical Commission has started a “Historical Reference List”.
- A reminder to everyone, Bill Dougherty’s Eagle Scout Project, Schuylkill Navigation Company Historical Markers, will be dedicated on Sunday, April 6, 2008 at Tow Path Park. Bill did a fantastic job!.

Adjournment

A. Keen made a motion to adjourn.
 P. Snyder seconded the motion.
 The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phyllis Snyder
 Substitute Secretary