

**EAST COVENTRY TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
July 9, 2008
Scheduled Meeting Minutes**

(Pledge of Allegiance)

Attendance: Gail Brown (Chairman), Ann Keen (Member), Lynn Coine (Vice-Chairman -absent), R Kolb (Liaison-Planning Commission), Larry Tiejten (Member) , Rugene Caldwell (Member), Dr. Rich Marchetti (Member), James Michael (Pending member), Phyl Snyder (Secretary)

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM.

Minutes

Minutes of May 14, 2008 were reviewed.

Motion was made by A. Keen to accept the Minutes and Seconded by P. Snyder. *(R. Caldwell, R. Marchetti, L. Tiejten excused – not members or not present at May’s meeting.)*

The motion was passed 4 – 0.

Public Comment

Ann Bedrick (East Nantmeal Township Historical Commission and Board of Directors, Chester County Historic Preservation Network) was a visitor.

Tanya Mason of 2003 Summer Lane was also present. Tanya is a frequent visitor and her participation is greatly appreciated.

Ann Bedrick stated Karen Marshall is delayed in traffic.

Action Items *(The Historical Commission preceded to Action items until the arrival of Karen Marshall, Chester County Parks and Recreation, Heritage Preservation Coordinator)*

G. Brown proposed one regular meeting a month and a second, optional, workshop meeting per month. These meetings would be similar to the Planning Commissions scheduling. Discussion followed as to whether the second or fourth Wednesday of the month would be appropriate for the regular meeting.

P. Snyder made a motion to continue the regular meetings the second Wednesday of each month and have Workshop meeting the fourth Wednesday when needed. R. Kolb seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously 7– 0.

Discussion Items

- Some members work full time and it was discussed whether starting our meetings at 7:30 p.m. would be a better start time. Everyone agreed the current 7:00 PM start time is appropriate.
- G. Brown asked if everyone had a copy of the Town Tours & Village Walks Brochure from Chester County Historical Preservation Network. “For the past thirteen years, Chester County citizens and visitors have ... endorsed the assortment of FREE historic evening walking tours ...” Copies of these tour brochures are available in the Township building foyer.
- Discussion on preparation for the hearing for the ‘Retro Demolition’ permits as submitted by Exelon will be discussed later after the Workshop.

- Members reported the Natural Lands Trust presentation was interesting and informative, but also a business solicitation

Other Business

- Dr. Marchetti reported on his research of the property at 138 Grubb Road which is for sale with possible subdivision. Henry Grubb bought several parcels of property in his lifetime, including the property which is now Dr. Marchetti's home. Dr. Marchetti will be checking the Glass Tax (1799), the Chester County Archives and deeds as he continues his research.
- G. Brown stated the deed research is essential for those properties which may be subject to development.
- The August 11, 2008 Board of Supervisors meeting is the date for the proposed approval of the Zoning Ordinance which includes the Historic Resource Map. G. Brown encourages all members to attend this meeting if possible.
- G. Brown discussed a 'welcome package' to be sent to new residents who have purchased Historic Homes. Per discussion with Bernie Rodgers, Township Manager, the Township receives a monthly report on real estate transactions in East Coventry. It usually runs a month behind schedule. It would be a good method to begin communication with historic home owners.
- G. Brown displayed a few articles (theorem painting, leather fire bucket, and folk art painted dough box) which she had completed at the Landis Valley Summer Institutes.

Workshop Presentation - Karen Marshall, Chester County Parks and Recreation, Heritage Preservation Coordinator.

Mrs. Marshall explained the significance of the Historical Commissions.

There are 73 municipalities in Chester County and 60 Historical Societies and Commissions. The National Historic Preservation Act, passed by Congress in 1966, created a strong legal basis for the protection and preservation of historic and cultural resources. The legislation established an extensive framework of protective and regulatory measures to be implemented at the federal, state, and local level. Most of the measures require cooperation among different levels of government as well as between individual agencies. Prior to the creation of the National Historic Preservation Act there was no citizens involvement or formal legislation to prohibit placement of roads which were destructive to historic assets, tearing down historical structures; doing whatever government or development needed for placement of roads or construction.

Mrs. Marshall presented suggestions for preservation planning in Chester County Communities. She presented the Historical Commission with a copy of 'Preserving Our Places – Historic Preservation Planning Manual for Chester County Communities (Chester County Planning Commission). This manual covers the following topics: Protecting Historic Resources; Historic Preservation at the Federal Level; Historic Preservation at the State Level; Historic Preservation at the Local Level; Private Historic Preservation Initiatives; Historic Preservation in Chester County; and Preservation Planning for Urban Landscapes.

Mrs. Marshall asked how many members would like a personal copy of this manual. All members requested a copy. G. Brown asked Mr. Roy Kolb if he thought this manual would be beneficial to the Planning Commission. He believed it would be beneficial information. Copies were requested for the Historical Commission and Planning Commission members.

Mrs. Marshall discussed the Historical Commission Administrative responsibilities. She stressed the importance of our Historic Resource Map and stated East Coventry Township is one of six Townships to complete this task. The East Coventry Historical Commission was the recipient of a Certificate of Accomplishment from Chester County and the Chester County Historical Preservation Network dated June 25, 2008. The members of the East Coventry Historical Commission were honored to receive this recognition.

Mrs. Marshall stressed the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 is not invasive, just gives a historical structure a chance to get into another millennium. We are proud of our heritage in our Chester County Communities. East Coventry is specifically proud of our rich heritage and architecture. Within our township is a National Register Historic District – Fricks Lock Village. We agree with Mrs. Marshall, we just want to keep these treasures for our grandchildren and their grandchildren.

Mrs. Marshall encouraged us to have fun and share our love of history with each other and the community” We are grateful to Mrs. Marshall for taking the time from her busy schedule to travel to the northern confines of the county to talk with our Historical Commission. She shared many insights and considerable knowledge on the responsibilities to preserve the history of our wonderful township. We are especially grateful for the assistance and support Chester County Parks and Recreation has given us in the development and production of the East Coventry Historic Resource Map.

Fricks Locks Historic District

- G. Brown had requested a copy of the Fricks Lock Village assessment report Frens and Frens has recently completed. We had received a copy of what appeared to be the original Frens and Frens Report – 2001.
- July 10, 2008 is the next scheduled Fricks Locks Stakeholders meeting. G. Brown and A. Keen will be attending representing the East Coventry Historical Commission.
- All nine members of the Historical Commission would like to tour Fricks Lock Village prior to hearing (to be scheduled). G. Brown will coordinate escort and accessibility with the Township Manager.
- G. Brown is assembling pertinent information for review and preparation of the hearing for ‘Retro Demolition Permits’ submitted by Exelon.
- G. Brown is still pursuing a copy of the Fire Investigation Report for the Fricks Locks Fire. The County Fire Marshall had referred her to the State Fire Marshalls Office, Trooper Thomas. Per Trooper Thomas there is not a criminal investigation for this fire. He stated we could get a copy of the Fire Investigation Report from the county. On contacting Mr. Holt, Chester County, we can send a request for this report on Township Letterhead and he will send us the basic information on this report. We have requested a full report.
- G. Brown distributed a 1’ inch binder containing a copy of the East Coventry Zoning Ordinance, Article XII – Historical Resource Protection Standards; the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended through 200; 36 CFR Part 800; Section Review Process. G. Brown asked all member to review these documents, especially Article XII as it pertains to the Demolition by Neglect review process. (It was noted additional regulations and articles will be distributed in the future for this manual.)

Adjournment

P. Snyder made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. A. Keen seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously 7-0

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phyllis Snyder
Secretary