

**EAST COVENTRY TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
August 13, 2008
SCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES**

(Pledge of Allegiance)

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

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Minutes

Minutes of July 9, 2008 were reviewed.

A. Keen made the motion to accept the Minutes and the motion was seconded by P. Snyder. Motion was passed unanimously. 8 – 0.

Public Comment

Liz Willow, Ellis Woods Road, telephoned G. Brown to congratulate us on our completion of the East Coventry Historical Atlas. We all appreciate her thoughtfulness.

Action Items

- **Historical Commission Township Website Page:** Lynn Coine has found it difficult with her work schedule to continue to work on a Historical Commission page for the Township website. G. Brown asked if anyone would volunteer to assume this task. G. Brown had several examples of websites from other Township Historical Commissions which could be used for ideas to format a website specific to the East Coventry Historical Commission. Ideas were discussed such as: annual goals and objectives, list of Historical Commission Members, Historical Commission contact for residents, activities, etc . J. Michael and P. Snyder volunteered to work as a committee for this project.
- **Listing of Historical References:** A list of historical references is in process. This is a living reference and members are encouraged to notify G. Brown if they have additions to the list. The list needs to be divided into categories with brief explanation of services. R. Marchetti is to provide additions from his experience with renovating his historic property. G. Brown to continue to work on this list.
- **Welcome Package:** As historical homes are sold in East Coventry, it would be a good outreach program to provide those new residents with a ‘Welcome Package’ from the Historical Commission. R. Caldwell and G. Brown volunteered to form a committee to coordinate and develop this package.

- Property Research: R. Marchetti researched and found the property located at 138 Grubb Road dated back to 1778. He hopes to research it back to the original Penn Land Grant. He was assigned another property recently sold on Ellis Woods Road to research.
- North Coventry Research Request: J. Michael has been working on a request from our neighboring Township, North Coventry, as to the location of the grave for the leading member of the Battle Axe Movement. Theophilus Ransom Gates was the leading member of a strange sect which developed for a short time in the Coventrys around the 1840's. He is rumored to be buried in the 'Union Cemetery' in Parkers Ford. All information Jim gathers will be forwarded to North Coventry and a file developed for our Historical files.
- State Historical Codes: G. Brown handed out copies of 'Title 37: The Pennsylvania History Code' and "Act 167: Historic District Act (1961). (To be placed in white three ring binder)
- Chester County Planning: G. Brown handed out copies of "Preserving Our Places – Historic Preservation Planning Manual for Chester County Communities"
- Historic Resource Map Up-date: On Sunday, August 10, 2008, upon reading the posted agenda for the Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting on August 11, 2008, G. Brown sent an e-mail to Bernie Rodgers, East Coventry Township Manager. The agenda read, "Advertising and adoption of Historical Resource Map". G. Brown asked Bernie 'what this meant, as the Historic Resource Map was to be approved as part of the Zoning Ordinance on August 11, 2008 and had been indicated at the previous BOS meeting and reported in 'The Mercury''. Mr. Rodgers responded Monday morning and asked for a meeting at the Township building. G. Brown and P. Snyder met with Mr. Rodgers to discuss the matter. Per Mr. Rodgers the Historic Resource Map had inadvertently been omitted from the Zoning Ordinance package when submitted to the Chester County Planning Commission for review. G. Brown reminded Mr. Rodgers that the Board of Supervisors at the Zoning Workshop meetings had in November of 2007 given the Historical Commission a December 2007 deadline date to complete the Historic Resource Map. Even when the December date was put forward two weeks earlier than the first request, the Historical Commission had met the deadline. Mrs. Snyder commented she had worked as late as 2:00 a.m. to meet the deadline. Mr. Rodgers profusely apologized for the error. Mr. Rodgers has written an Ordinance to adopt the Historic Resource Map. This Ordinance is to be addressed by the Board of Supervisors for adoption at their October 13, 2008 regular meeting. Over five hundred (500) notices will be sent out to residences.

G. Brown asked members if they would volunteer to assist the Township administrative personnel with these notices. All members concurred.

- Fricks Lock Historic District: Per a letter submitted August 1, 2008 from John C. Halderman, Exelon General Counsel to the Historical Commission, action on the 'retroactive demolition permits' has been extended to November 30, 2008. This extension was requested by G. Brown so the state may access the effect these partial demolitions may have on the National Register Historic District Status of Fricks Lock Village. It is encouraging that

Exelon, Chester County, Schuylkill River Federal and State Heritage Association, and now the Natural Lands Trust are involved in this endeavor. These organizations represent some of the strongest advocates for preservation of our state's historic heritage as represented by their many donations and sponsorships.

- Although requested, we have still not been able to receive a copy of the Chester County Fire Marshalls reports on the February fire in Fricks Lock Village which gutted the Lock Tenders House. We were sent 'basic information' which stated the origin of the fire as 'appears to be multiple'. As rumor has it that the fire may have been started by lightening, arson, or was a 'controlled fire', does this mean all apply? Its cause is listed as 'incendiary/under investigation'. The State Fire Marshalls office has acknowledges this fire is not under criminal investigation.
- As of the August 11, 2008 Board of Supervisors meeting, negotiations with local police to contract evening off-duty hours has not been resolved.

Subdivision and Land Development

- Telvil Hall - Received Preliminary Plan approval.
- Neuman Property (i.e. – Ridgefield Estates) – Discussed review per SALDO 428.6.

Discussion

- Mr. Roy Kolb had suggested at our last meeting that we investigate methods of preparing of Historical homes and buildings for the coming winter as oil prices are high this year. Mr. L. Tietjen has been researching heating methods for upgrading his home. In discussion, we found that the pros and cons of using the various methods of heating/fuel would vary depending on each individual's needs and budget. There are improved 'coal systems'. Also, corn is an option and can be brought locally. These are only two options; the options are of a wide range and can be explored on the internet.

It has been reported that proper maintenance of older windows and storm windows is an effective barrier as new windows. In conclusion, we felt that each individual could best explore options as they apply to their own needs and budget.

- P. Snyder and G. Brown reported on the August 2, 2008 Eagle Court of Honor ceremony for Bill Dougherty. The Historical Commission has been privileged to travel this path with Bill and it has been an honor for us to do so.
- The Historical Commission discussed a priority list for 'deed research'. We discussed many properties 'for sale' or 'recently sold' which may be subject to development. We will continue to work on this issue.
- The Chester County Speakers Program was discussed briefly. Due to the continuing work load for the Historic Resource Map and Fricks Lock Village, it was agreed to add this item to our 2009 goals.

Other Business

G. Brown brought it to everyone's attention that we will be entering the 2009 budget process.

Adjournment

R. Caldwell made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. J. Michael seconded it.

The motion was passed unanimously, 7-0.

.(P. Snyder had to leave early-9:00PM.)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phyllis Snyder/ Ann Keen (Substitute)
Secretary