

**West Goshen Township
Historical Commission Meeting
1025 Paoli Pile**

**Minutes
Thursday, September 28, 2017**

Commission Members:

Present: Nancy McCabe, Kevin Pistiner, Kent Smith, Richard Davis, Elisabeth Dean, Selagh Purnell, Edward Tiernan, Thomas Walsh

Absent: Michael Pilligalli

Others Present: Hugh Purnell (Board Liaison), Kenneth Lehr (Township Liaison), Keith Smith, Dr. Douglas White

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Nancy McCabe.

Roll call of members present

Secretary, Kevin Pistiner, recorded all meeting attendees.

Reading of minutes of last meeting

Dean motioned a vote, which was second by Davis, to approve the meeting minutes of August 24, 2017. Commission members approved the meeting minutes with an 8-0 vote.

Officers reports

No news to report.

Committee reports

No news to report.

Agenda

Matlack House

Dean mentioned that progress is still being made on restoring the exterior of the house. The work renovations should help to stabilize the structure and reduce further deterioration.

Historic House at intersection of Westtown Road and Falcon Lane (Dr. Freemann House)

Dean mentioned that this structure is in significant disrepair and may result in demolition-by-neglect. The house displays a datestone of 1817. Construction equipment and plastic barrels have been stored on the property, which may be impacting the nearby stream. Foliage has become overgrown throughout the property. The current condition of the property has become unhealthy for the neighborhood and environment. This property should be investigated further to determine future plan of action.

Boyd House

This property contains a house constructed in 1790 with additional surrounding land. The currently owners of the property, Zarelli Group, have planned to demolish the house and construct six new houses. McCabe mentioned that the Historical Commission and the Chester County Camera Club toured the house to capture photographs. Hugh Purnell mentioned that we should consider sending the current owners of the property a letter requesting that they reconsider demolishing the house. We should also apply for grants to preserve the property from historic preservation organizations, including the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The current owners could receive a tax credit for a commercial real estate renovation if they preserve the original façade and 40% of the original structure.

Walsh motioned a vote that the Historical Commission compose and submit a letter to the current Boyd House owners requesting that they consider preserving the historic house. Kent Smith second the motion. Commission members approved the motion with an 8-0 vote.

West Goshen History Exhibition at Township Building

McCabe motioned that the Historical Commission install a permanent revolving exhibit at the township building highlighting the history of West Goshen. After further discussion, Walsh motioned a vote that the Historical Commission collect new and/or old photographs, maps, post cards, and other visuals of the Township history by the next meeting on October 26, 2017. Members should also compile a list of “Top Ten Historic Houses” in the township that should be photographed for the exhibit. The best visuals will be displayed on a rotating basis within the Township Building. Dean second the motion. Commission members approved the motion with an 8-0 vote.

Township History Project

Walsh mentioned that we should collect local history stories about life in West Goshen Township. The first project could focus on industries of the Township up to 1975. This would involve gathering stories from people who worked at Schram, Lasko, and other organizations. The information would be used to write articles for the Township newsletter.

New Facebook Page: “West Goshen Historical Commission”

Keith Smith mentioned that the Page has received a significant amount of viewer traffic since it was established last month. Historic photographs that Keith Smith has posted, related to the Township, have been viewed and shared by people across the country. Pistiner mentioned that the Page currently has 56 Likes and new Likes are being acquired each day. Dean mentioned that she will encourage local historical sites to become active participants in our Facebook Page. Keith Smith mentioned that we should write a “who, what, where, when” article in the Township newsletter with a photograph for residents to guess the answer. The photograph answer will be revealed on the Historical Commission’s Facebook Page.

Budget Proposal

Memberships	\$500
Chester County Historic Preservation Network: \$100	
Annual Awards Dinner: \$100	
Chester County Historical Society: \$100	
PA Historical and Museum Commission: \$100	
National Trust: \$100	
Speaker Series Fees	\$500
Commission Member Training Workshops	\$250
Informational Brochures and Booklets	\$500
Historical Marker Manufacture and Install	\$3,000
~5% Contingency	\$250
Total	<u>\$5,000</u>

McCabe motioned a vote to approve the above mentioned proposed annual budget. Walsh second the motion. Commission members approved the motion with an 8-0 vote.

Announcements

Historical Commission Mailbox

Lehr mentioned that a mailbox will be established at the Township Building to collect and hold incoming Historical Commission mail.

West Goshen Resident Art Exhibit

Lehr mentioned that the resident art exhibit is currently on display in the township building for the public to view.

Township Newsletter

Lehr mentioned that the Historical Commission CCHPN Grace Under Fire Award will be on the cover of the Autumn newsletter.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Shelagh Purnell moved to adjourn the meeting. Walsh second the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Pistiner
Secretary