

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

**Minutes
Thursday, October 26, 2017**

Commission Members:

Present: Nancy McCabe, Michael Pilligalli, Kevin Pistiner, Kent Smith, Richard Davis, Shelagh Purnell, Edward Tiernan, Thomas Walsh

Absent: Elizabeth Dean

Others Present: Hugh Purnell (Board Liaison), Kenneth Lehr (Township Liaison)

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm by President Nancy McCabe.

Roll call of members present

Secretary, Kevin Pistiner, recorded all meeting attendees.

Reading of minutes of last meeting

Walsh motioned a vote, which was second by Pilligalli, to approve the meeting minutes of September 28, 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

Bishops Lodge (Boyd House)

McCabe mentioned that the Zarelli Group sold the property to Glenn M. White Land Company on October 15, 2017. This information was based on the deed recorded with the County of Chester. Survey markers are currently surrounding the property. The property was sold with the Township approval of a six (6) lot subdivision and demolition of the historic house.

Hugh Purnell mentioned that the Historical Commission should quickly notify the new property owner that the parcel was also previously approved as a five (5) lot subdivision without demolition of the historic house. Due to a stream on the property, new construction may have a fifty (50) to one-hundred (100) foot setback line for dwellings. Tiernan and Pilligalli will contact the new property owner.

Pilligalli mentioned that the new property owners have a thirty (30) day waiting period for building permits. An example of a historic subdivision in the Township can be found on Perry Drive. The developer was granted several subdivision plans. They ultimately chose to preserve the eighteenth-century structure, but it needed to be moved several feet at a cost of \$215,000.

Matlack House

McCabe mentioned that renovations continue on the house. The windows are no longer boarded up with plywood. The house has also been recently painted.

Freemann House

McCabe mentioned that the property is owned by a construction company. A historic house is situated on the property marked with an "1818" datestone. The township approved a fourteen (14) lot subdivision in the past. A stream running through the property may have an adverse effect on the ability to develop all fourteen (14) lots based on current building codes.

Documenting Historic Township Properties

McCabe and Smith compiled a list of historic properties in the Township. Walsh mentioned that the Historical Commission should present an award each year to a restored historic home within the Township. Taylors Mill should be dedicated as a historic district and identified by a historical marker.

Lehr mentioned that he is beginning to organize the November/December history exhibit at the Township Building. Several photographs of historic homes may be included in the exhibit. The current homeowners will be informed of the exhibit. Each photograph will include a brief description, but will not include the current property address.

Pilligalli mentioned that it is difficult to designate a house on the National Register. A former owner of the Mary Rogers House, Ruth Flag, was denied placement on the register. It was deemed that the house had no significant historical value. The Mary Rogers House was the only house named for a woman owner as revealed in the datestone.

Township History Bus Trip

Lehr mentioned that a bus trip to the American Revolution Museum will be planned for July or August 2018. Jim Christ of the Paoli Battlefield has offered to present a lecture at the Township Building in coordination with the bus trip. A presentation of the American Revolution's impact on the local area will be conducted during the bus ride to Philadelphia. The trip will include transportation, admission to the American Revolution Museum, lunch, and a visit to the Constitution Center. The trip may occur jointly with West Chester Borough and East Goshen Township.

Meeting Minutes Posted

Pistiner mentioned that during the Township's transition to the new website format, the Historical Commission meeting minutes were absent from the website. The Township

Manager, Casey LaLonde, will ensure that the meeting minutes are posted on the new Township website.

Announcements

Township Comprehensive Plan

Pistiner mentioned that the township will be holding monthly meetings for the discussion and eventual completion of a comprehensive plan. The meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Township Building.

November Historical Commission Meeting

McCabe mentioned that due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the November meeting will be held on Thursday, November 30, 2017.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Shelagh Purnell moved to adjourn the meeting. Smith second the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Pistiner
Secretary