

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

**Minutes
Thursday, December 28, 2017**

Commission Members:

Present: Nancy McCabe, Michael Pilligalli, Kevin Pistiner, Richard Davis, Thomas Walsh, Shelagh Purnell

Absent: Kent Smith, Elizabeth Dean, Edward Tiernan, Kenneth Lehr (Township Liaison)

Others Present: Hugh Purnell (Township Supervisor Liaison)

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by President Nancy McCabe.

Roll call of members present

Secretary, Kevin Pistiner, recorded all meeting attendees.

Reading of minutes of last meeting

Pilligalli motioned a vote, which was second by Walsh, to approve the meeting minutes of November 30, 2017. Commission members approved the meeting minutes with a unanimous vote.

Officers reports

No news to report.

Committee reports

No news to report.

Agenda

Bishop's Lodge

McCabe mentioned that the new property owner, Glenn M. White Land Co. has begun to demolish exterior portions of the house. This included overhangs and covered porches.

Pilligalli mentioned that the remainder of the house will certainly be demolished in 2018.

Township Comprehensive Plan

Hugh Purnell mentioned that the new plan must include preservation procedures for historic preservation within the Township. Walsh mentioned that the Historical Commission should draft a proposal for historic preservation within the township to be included in the comprehensive plan. This might include a procedure for purchasing at-risk properties that are in danger of being replaced by new development. One proposal is to create a preservation fund for the purchase of historic properties and/or open land. A recreation fee could be added to construction permits, which would supply funds for the initiative.

Historic Photo Exhibit

Completion of the exhibit is still in progress. The photographs should be displayed within several weeks within the Township Building.

Historical Commission Facebook Page

Pistiner mentioned that nearly ninety (90) people have Liked the page. We are receiving a steady flow of visitors who engage with the page and posts. Walsh mentioned that we should include a note in the Township newsletter directing people to the Facebook page.

Township Class One Property Research

McCabe mentioned that in 2018 we should develop a file for each historic property within the Township. Several Commission members could select a property to research throughout the year. This would help to begin the process of creating a database of historic information about the township.

Newsletter Article Topic

The Historical Commission should compose an article about both Bishop's Lodge and the Matlack House. A compare and contrast article between the two properties detailing the history of the houses. This would highlight the loss of Bishop's Lodge and promote the success of restoring the Matlack House. The article should be included in the next Township newsletter.

Cemetery Tour Update

Walsh mentioned that he compiled a binder of information related to the proposed cemetery tour. The information will be used as a guide during the tour. Walsh contacted the USCT (United States Colored Troops) reenactors organization to ask if they would be interested in participating in the cemetery tour. They may present a demonstration of weapons and supplies used during the Civil War.

Walsh mentioned that after the Civil War, the Borough of West Chester enacted a law that removed all cemeteries from the borough. Most of the new cemeteries were established within West Goshen Township, which served surrounding communities. The Township does not have any documented Native American cemeteries. We should compile an informational list of cemeteries located within the Township. Due to the high concentration of military burials within Oakland Cemetery, it could be compared to Arlington Cemetery in Virginia.

Announcements

West Chester Borough Historical Commission

Walsh mentioned that the Borough of West Chester has approved the creation of a Historical Commission. The commission will begin to meet in January at the Spellman Administration Building on Paoli Pike. The West Chester Borough commission will consist of nine (9) members.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, Pilligalli moved to adjourn the meeting. Pistiner second the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Pistiner
Secretary