

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

**Minutes  
Thursday, January 25, 2018**

**Commission Members:**

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

Absent: Edward Tiernan

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

**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**

Pilligalli motioned a vote, which was second by Walsh, to approve the meeting minutes of December 28, 2017. Commission members unanimously approved the meeting minutes.

**Officers reports**

No news to report.

**Committee reports**

No news to report.

**Agenda**

**400 Greenhill Road – Part of Jerrehian Estate**

Selene Platt, current tenant of the historic house, mentioned that the house will be demolished during the planned development of the land. She hoped that the house could be documented for historic records before the structure is demolished. The house was denied placement on the National Registrar of Historic Places based on a lack of historic significance, architecture, and disrepair. The original structure was built in 1790 with additions in 1820, 1850, and during the 1950s. A portion of the house contains a log structure.

Walsh mentioned that the log structure could be disassembled and relocated to a township property. Davis mentioned that East Goshen completed a similar project with the Plank House.

Pilligalli encouraged Platt to determine if part of the house was constructed using serpentine stone. If so, it may have been excavated from the local serpentine quarry. Hugh Purnell mentioned that serpentine stone is the oldest type of stone in the world and is only found in a few places. Seven indigenous plants have been discovered based on the location of the serpentine stone quarries.

Walsh mentioned that Platt could visit the Chester County Historical Society to learn more about the house. Dean mentioned that the County Archives, located in the Government Services Building, would also be a great place to research the home's history.

Platt mentioned that the property contains a sycamore tree that is over two-hundred years old. Walsh mentioned that the planning commission should be informed of the tree as well as any other historic trees in the township. The trees should be preserved in a similar manner as the historic trees at Valley Forge National Park. The Jerrehian Estate development should have a vegetation map that identifies all of the historically significant vegetation on the property.

Hugh Purnell mentioned that historic preservation should be added to land preservation within the township. This would help to secure grants for the preservation of historic properties and encourage land developers to preserve historic structures. Walsh mentioned that we should encourage township residents to submit historic tree locations and descriptions. This would help to create a database of historic trees in the township.

#### Historic Photo Exhibit in Township Building

Lehr mentioned that he is still in the process of acquiring frames for the photographs.

#### Facebook Page

Pistiner mentioned that we have approximately 120 Likes on the Historical Commission page. We will make sure to post new information to the page at least twice per month. McCabe mentioned that the Township newsletter should include a note about the Facebook page.

#### Boyd House

Walsh mentioned that the Boyd family may loan a packet of information about the house to the Historical Commission. Davis mentioned that the information can be digitized for review at a later date. The Boyd family has not visited the house since it has been demolished.

#### Museum of the American Revolution Bus Trip

Lehr mentioned that the bus trip is finalized. The bus trip will occur on Saturday, July 21, 2018. The event is sponsored by the Historical Commission and will be cross promoted with East Goshen and West Chester Borough. All registration for the trip will occur through the West Goshen Park and Recreation Department.

**Chestnut Grove Cemetery Tour**

Walsh mentioned that the Charles A. Melton Community Center and the West Goshen Historical Commission will sponsor the event. All registration for the tour will be processed by the Township. The tour will occur on Wednesday, May 30, 2018 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. A rain date will occur on Saturday June 2, 2018 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

**Classic Car Show**

Hugh Purnell mentioned that a Saturday in May 2018 will be selected as the date.

**Announcements**

**Chester County Historic Preservation Network Luncheon**

McCabe mentioned that the CCHPN will host a luncheon at the Brandywine River Museum on Saturday, March 10, 2018 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. The cost to attend is \$20 per person, which will be covered by the Township.

**Township Newsletter Deadline**

Lehr mentioned that the deadline for article submissions is Friday, March 2, 2018.

**Chester County Town Tours and Village Walks – West Chester Borough**

Walsh mentioned that the first walking tour of the season will occur on Thursday, June 14, 2018 at 5:30 pm at the Chester County Historical Society. This year's theme is Meeting Houses to Mansions.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Walsh moved to adjourn the meeting. Smith second the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Pistiner  
Secretary