

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

**Minutes  
Thursday, November 30, 2017**

**Commission Members:**

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

Absent: N/A

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

**Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 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 Davis, to approve the meeting minutes of October 26, 2017. Commission members unanimously approved the meeting minutes.

**Officers reports**

No news to report.

**Committee reports**

No news to report.

**Agenda**

**Matlack House Presentation**

Walsh presented an update on the renovation project of the Matlack House. The property is owned by the County of Chester and is located along Westtown Road near the Government Services Center. The current plan is to stabilize the exterior of the house to reduce future deterioration of the structure. Work completed on the house is as follows: new exterior stucco on all exterior walls, new paint on stucco, doors, windows, and trim, new asphalt roof on structure, new copper roof on overhangs, new basement windows, asbestos removed from interior of house. Emergency vehicles and dumpsters and no longer stored near the house.

The house was constructed in two phases during the second half of the eighteenth century. Two doors are located on the front of the house, which faces south. Each door is surrounded by a different trim pattern. The older portion of the house contains six-over-nine pane windows. This is in contrast to the younger portion of the house, which

contains six-over-six pane windows. The county does not currently have a plan for the property's future use. The Court of Common Plea's president judge is overseeing the project. They have no plans to sell the property.

Karen Marshall of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network should be involved in the project to seek grants for further renovations. A West Goshen Historical Commission subcommittee was appointed by President McCabe to track the progress of the Matlack House renovations. The subcommittee will also continue researching the property's history. The appointed members are Dean, Pistiner, Smith, and Tiernan.

#### Bishop's Lodge (Boyd House)

Tiernan spoke with the new property owners, Glenn M. White Land Company. The developer considered moving the historic house, but it was deemed not financially feasible. They have decided to demolish the house in order to construct new homes on the property.

Dean mentioned that she will seek approval for the Historical Commission to visit the house before demolition. The Historical Commission should draft a list of objects that we wish to salvage from the house.

Hugh Purnell mentioned that the development plans may have to be re-approved before continuing with the project. He will seek further clarification on the process.

A West Goshen Historical Commission subcommittee was appointed by President McCabe to oversee the Bishop's Lodge progress. The appointed members are Dean, Pilligalli, Hugh Purnell, and Shelagh Purnell.

#### Facebook Page

Pistiner mentioned that the Historical Commission's Facebook page has almost ninety Likes. Historic photographs of the Township, posted on the page, have been well received. Photographs from Walsh's visit to the Matlack House will be posted on the Facebook page. Pistiner proposed to create a collection of photographs of the Township with descriptions. The photographs will be posted on Facebook on a consistent basis. Davis mentioned that he has a large collection of photographs that he will share with the Historical Commission.

#### West Goshen Township Comprehensive Plan Taskforce.

Hugh Purnell mentioned that the Historical Commission should encourage the inclusion of historic preservation in the new Township comprehensive plan. Tiernan mentioned that previous comprehensive plan praised the existence of historic properties within the township, but did not include a plan for historic preservation. The Taskforce meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Township Building.

#### Bus Trip to Historic Philadelphia

Lehr mentioned that Saturday, July 21, 2018 has been selected for the bus trip. Jim Christ, of the Paoli Battlefield, has offered to lead a presentation of the Township's involvement in the American Revolution. The presentation will occur at the Township Building on the morning of the trip as well as on the bus to Philadelphia. The trip cost per person will be \$49 – includes bus to Philadelphia and admission to the Museum of the American Revolution. The Constitution Center will be offered as an option for an additional \$6. Participants will be offered free time to explore the city as well as have lunch on their own.

#### Township Newsletter Article

The Historical Commission will publish an article in the Township Newsletter highlighting the successful stabilization of the Matlack House and the loss of Bishop's Lodge. A brief history of both properties along with photographs will be included in the article.

#### Chestnut Grove Cemetery Tour – Historical Commission Sponsorship

Walsh planned a historic walking tour of the Chestnut Grove Cemetery to take place on Wednesday, May 30, 2018 in honor of Memorial Day. The African American cemetery is the burial site of Civil War veterans. The historic walking tour may be limited to thirty participants due to the limited size of the cemetery. A detailed description of the event has been entered into the record, which may be reviewed below.

Pilligalli motioned a vote to approve the sponsorship of the Chestnut Grove Cemetery historic walking tour. Smith acknowledged the motion, which was second by Tiernan. Commission members unanimously approved the sponsorship.

#### **Announcements**

##### December Meeting

The next Historical Commission meeting will take place on Thursday, December 28, 2017.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Walsh moved to adjourn the meeting. Davis second the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Pistiner  
Secretary

## **Annual West Goshen Original Memorial Day Cemetery Tour Proposal**

What: Cemetery Walking Tour

When: May 30, 2018

Where: Chestnut Grove Cemetery

Time: 6:00 PM

Sponsor: West Goshen Historical Commission

Co-sponsors: West Chester Historical Commission and the Charles A. Melton Center

Parking: Behind AAA in the Long & Foster parking lot

Rain date: Saturday, June 2, 2018 at 5:00 PM

Registration: Through West Goshen Twp.

Things to bring: Folding chair, water, comfortable shoes

Guides: Tom Walsh, Penny Washington, Catherine Quillman, Sarah Wesley, Kevin Pistiner, and other members of the West Goshen Historical Commission

Program: Opening remarks, prayer, flag salute

Historic talk – Tom Walsh

Search and find activity – volunteers & audience

Closing remarks with gun salute and Taps

Cost: Handout materials, TBD

Light refreshments – optional

Other considerations: Contact Henderson's Black Student Union.

Set out Event Parking signs at AAA. (not mentioned at WGHC meeting)

Possible use of 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment U.S.C.T. reenactors (not mentioned at WGHC meeting)

T. Walsh

11/29/17

Amended 12/6/17