



East Fallowfield Historical Commission

Approved Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2014

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 6:35pm

II. Meeting attendance

- Joe McCormick, Garth Monaghan, Sue Monaghan, Buddy Rhoades, Fred Bissinger, and Lee Schlingmann present. Arthur DeLeo absent. Quorum met.

III. Review of minutes of prior meeting

- Unanimous vote to adopt minutes of August 6, 2014 meeting as “approved”.

IV. Discussion – Open Issues

- **Mortonville Bridge** –potential for additional work to change the façade of interior side of concrete “jersey barrier” walls to be more in keeping with original appearance.
 - i. Buddy Rhoades indicated that he would attempt to contact Senator Dinnimin to review the status of the bridge and see about potential for making modifications.
 - **Frog Hollow Bridge (Speakman’s No. 1 Covered Bridge)** – construction scheduled to commence later this year.
 - i. Construction work to renovate the bridge has not yet commenced.
 - **Historic Resource Map and Windshield Survey** – modifications to the Windshield Survey are needed.
 - i. Sue Monaghan located a disc with the survey, the information can now be updated as required.
 - **Website Additions** – HC plans to enhance the Township website appeal by adding photos and other information pertaining to the Township’s historic resources.
 - i. The HC has been advised to propose the website modifications to the Board of Supervisors for approval
 - ii. Website coordinator is able to upload pictures, there is probably a nominal charge for the service, HC budget can accommodate costs.
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- iii. Buddy Rhoades stated he would attempt to find the agreement with Sue Haldeman to determine what work she can provide without additional cost.
- iv. Joe McCormick stated he would put something together for the BOS to review relative to the information the HC would like to put on the Township's website for their next meeting.

V. Discussion - New Business

- **2960 Strasburg Road** – A Parkesburg resident, Clarence Swartzentruber, appeared before the Commission to discuss his plans for the renovation of the property. He had been the low bidder at an auction for the property on July 17, 2014; his bid was accepted and he bought the property.
 - i. The property has been determined by the Historical Commission to be a Class II historic resource within the Township. The building is identified as originally having been a one-room schoolhouse known as the Mt. Carmel School built in 18XX.
 - ii. Mr. Swartzentruber stated that he had done some investigation of the building's structure and architectural finishes. He has determined that the building, presently with a vinyl siding exterior, actually has field stone walls, which have been covered up over years of remodeling. He further stated that the structure is in need of a new roof and roof framing, new wiring and plumbing, and interior finishes.
 - iii. Mr. Swartzentruber stated that he wanted to have a mason begin re-pointing the stone walls as early as this fall, and further stated he would like to take the opportunity to have the mason re-structure the gable end walls of the building so as to increase the pitch of the roof when it is replaced.
 - iv. After listening to Mr. Swartzentruber's renovation the plans, the HC advised that he would need to apply for a building permit to proceed with some of his planned work, and encouraged him to make an appointment with Rob McLarnon to discuss all of his plans and solicit advice on permitting and proceeding with the work. The HC also advised Mr. Swartzentruber that he would probably have to have plans prepared for review as a part of the permitting process.
 - v. The HC expressed serious concerns about the modifications to the roof pitch described by Mr. Swartzentruber. It was noted that the shape of the structure, including the roof pitch, was characteristic of one-room schoolhouse designs of the period found locally, and the HC is of the opinion that such modification would be detrimental to the historical integrity of the structure. Mr. Swartzentruber stated he felt the aesthetic appearance of the structure would be enhanced by modifying the roof pitch, thereby benefitting the community. The HC expressed the opinion that maintaining the original characteristics of the structure, as a historic resource, was more in keeping with the benefit to the community.
 - vi. In summation, Mr. Swartzentruber was advised to seek counsel with Rob McLarnon, provide the necessary information to apply for the necessary permits, and meet with the Historical Commission once more with his finalized renovation plans prior to the issuance of a building permit. The HC did agree that the renovation plans discussed all seemed beneficial, and would greatly enhance the property, the only negative being modification of the roof pitch. The HC shall advise Rob McLarnon of the discussions, the areas od
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agreement with the proposed renovation plans as well as the concerns with certain of the modifications contemplated.

- **190 Mink Hollow Road** – the owner of the property, Ms. Kaitlin O’Donnell, appeared before the Historical Commission at the request of Rob McLarnon to review proposed renovation plans to the property recently purchased by Ms. O’Donnell.
 - i. Rob McLarnon had previously advised that a building permit had been issued for this property, having initially overlooked that the property may be a historic resource. A package include plans and engineering reviews had been forwarded to the HC. The HC did determine that the property is identified as a Class II historic resource within the Township.
 - ii. Ms. O’Donnell stated that the renovation work had already started, and to date there had been some demolition and the replacement of floor structural members. Much of the structure had been damaged by mold and resultant degradation of building components.
 - iii. The renovation plans as presented primarily concern interiors of the building. The owner plans to install new windows, similar in appearance to the original windows, and a new door, with the remainder of exterior work repairing in kind. Upon completion, the property would largely retain its original appearance.
 - iv. The HC found no reason to object to the renovation as presented, and congratulated the owner on plans to retain the historic characteristics of the property. The HC will advise Rob McLarnon of its review, and finding that the work should continue as presented.
- **Electronic Storage of Historical Commission documents and records** – discussed the idea of scanning and preserving documents to electronic media to prevent loss or damage of the records.
 - i. Discussed scanning the documents and photographs stored in filing cabinets, cataloging then collection, indexing to improve ease of use, and preserving electronically.
 - ii. May take a while to accomplish this work, will discuss means and methods at next meeting.

VI. Adjourn Meeting – meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe McCormick

Joe McCormick
Historical Commission Chairman