



East Fallowfield Historical Commission

Approved Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2015

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

II. Meeting attendance

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

III. Review of minutes of prior meeting

- Minutes of December 3, 2014 reviewed and adopted for record without comment.

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. No further update available.
 - **Frog Hollow Bridge (Speakman’s No. 1 Covered Bridge)** – construction scheduled to commence later this year.
 - i. Joe McCormick advised that construction date us yet to be determined.
 - ii. No further update available.
 - **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.
 - ii. Joe McCormick has updated survey with new owners as available from Township records.
 - **Website Additions** – HC plans to enhance the Township website appeal by adding photos and other information pertaining to the Township’s historic resources.
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- i. Joe McCormick has prepared a memo requesting that the BOS authorize the creation of additions to the Township website and/or a Facebook presence to showcase and facilitate public access to historic documents and photographs archived at the Township building. Plan to have on the next BOS meeting agenda.
 - ii. Apparently some confusion as to what the HC has proposed to do, clarification is needed.
 - **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. This will be an ongoing project, further meetings will discuss the means and methods.
 - **2960 Strasburg Road** – the owner of the proper has appeared before the Historical Commission at his request to discuss proposed renovation and remodeling of the structure at his address.
 - i. Limited demolition permit has been issued by Code Enforcement official. Demolition of front porch and presumably mechanical and electric systems as well. Siding completely removed to reveal stone walls.
 - ii. Joe McCormick distribute several photos pf the ongoing work. It was noted that the demolition permit lists demolition of roof – not clear whether or not it is the main roof of the structure or the roof of the front porch which has demolished.
 - iii. Decided that Joe McCormick should remind Rob McLarnon that the Historical Commission had taken strong exception to the replacement of the roof with a different appearance as he owner had originally proposed; it had been observed that an important aspect of the architectural significance of the “one-room school house” was the roof structure.
 - **19 Rokeby Road** – discussed that the new owner, Saer Kahn, has commenced repairs and renovations to the property, formerly the Ida Ella Ruth Jones house.
 - i. Fred Bissinger stated that he had been to the property to survey the structure as well as to offer the owner some suggestions as to the renovation contemplated.
 - ii. It was noted that some of the renovations made to date are suspect relative to their structural integrity. Additionally it was suggested that the materials being utilized were not consistent with the Commission’s prior recommendations.
 - iii. It is not clear whether or not the owner has secured permits for the ongoing work from the Township. Joe McCormick will contact Rob McLarnon to inquire as to the issuance of permit.
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V. Discussion - New Business

- **11 Park Avenue** – The new owners of the property appeared before the Historical Commission pursuant to an application for demolition of the existing structures that has been applied for. Rob McLarnon has referred the demolition permit application to the HC for review.
 - i. It was determined that the property in question, Tax Parcel # 47-7-17.2, is listed on the Townships Historic Resource Inventory as a Class I historic resource, described as a cottage constructed approximately 1920, listed as a chapel, and listed on the National Register.
 - ii. The owners stated they had recently acquired the property, and felt that the state of deterioration is such that it presents a hazard, and should be demolished as soon as possible. The owners presented some photos of the existing condition as well as some older photos of the area.
 - iii. The Historic Commission stated that a field survey of the structure(s) would need to be conducted before any recommendation could be made to the BOS or the code enforcement official relative to the issue of demolition permit.
 - iv. The HC will seek to arrange a site visit in the coming week.
 - **775 Fairview Road** – a group of individuals representing the Chester County Department of Emergency Services appeared before the Historical Commission to present plans and discuss proposed modifications to the existing communication tower and construction of additional structures to be placed at the existing cell tower site located at 775 Fairview Road, tax parcel ID 47-8-23.7 (Vermeil property).
 - i. The representatives discussed the proposal to add additional devices to the existing communications tower, increasing its height from 140' to 146', and to construct additional support structures for the related equipment including a Radio Equipment Shelter, 14' in height with a 280 square foot footprint (11'8" x 24'). Plans were presented for the HC to reference.
 - ii. As the structures do not specifically impact any historic resource, the Commission noted that that it would only make suggestions/recommendations as to the aesthetic presence of the proposed construction and impact on the public's scenic view.
 - iii. The Commission noted that the new structures were to be similar in appearance to the existing structures at the site. It was further noted that the HC's recommendations as to architectural appearance and materials utilized for the existing structures had been adopted for the construction. As the proposed new
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structures shall be substantially the same as the existing, the HC takes no exception to the appearance and construction of the proposed structure.

- iv. The HC did comment on the visual appearance from the street (Fairview Road). It was recommended that the new construction plan include planting of screening material between the enclosed area of the structures and the adjacent road. The utilization of plants that are (1) indigenous to the local habitat, (2) are low maintenance, and (3) will provide an effective and reasonably attractive visual barrier is highly recommended.
 - v. It was agreed that the Historical Commission would present its review and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.
- **Membership Expirations** – it was noted that Garth Monaghan and Joe McCormick's terms are expiring this period.
 - i. Both Garth and Joe indicated their desire to continue with another term on the Historical Commission. There being a quorum present, a vote was taken on a motion to reinstate them for an additional term, and it was unanimously approved.
 - ii. A memo shall be sent to the Board of Supervisors recommending that Garth Monaghan and Joe McCormick be appointed to new terms.
 - **Election of Officers for 2015** – There being a quorum present, a motion was presented to select new Historical Commission officers for the year 2015.
 - i. The HC unanimously voted to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the following members be appointed as officers for 2015:
 1. Joe McCormick – Chairman
 2. Arthur DeLeo – Vice Chairman
 3. Sue Monaghan - Secretary
 - ii. A memo shall be sent to the Board of Supervisors recommending the approval of the officers as selected.

VI. Adjourn Meeting – meeting adjourned at 7:40PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe McCormick

Joe McCormick
Historical Commission Chairman
