



East Fallowfield Historical Commission

Approved Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2015

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 6:40pm

II. Meeting attendance

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

III. Review of minutes of prior meeting

- **Minutes of July 2014 reviewed and 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. **Joe McCormick advised that he had been contacted by Karen Marshall of the Chester County Historical Preservation Network, she left voicemail message mentioning bridge – have not spoken with her as yet. When information available, will advise Commission**
 - **Frog Hollow Bridge (Speakman’s No. 1 Covered Bridge)** – construction scheduled to commence later this year.
 - i. PennDOT contacted with respect to communication provisions agreed to as a part of the Section 106 meeting of concerned parties. No response.
 - ii. As of this date, no work has been started to renovate the bridge. Joe McCormick stated that he had forwarded a letter to PennDOT which requested (1) what the status of the proposed work and schedule is, and (2) why a monthly progress report has not been sent as was agreed to during the Section 106 public meeting held in February of 2014.
 - iii. **No further update**
 - **Historic Resource Map and Windshield Survey** – modifications to the Windshield Survey are needed.
 - i. Joe McCormick has input much of the Property Owner information on to the windshield survey and made some other updates to the data
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- ii. A suggestion to update the map and survey is included on the Comprehensive plan to be proposed to the BOS.
 - iii. **Comprehensive Plan recommends hiring a consultant to update the plan.**
- **Website Additions** – HC plans to enhance the Township website appeal by adding photos and other information pertaining to the Township’s historic resources.
 - i. **Buddy Rhoades to work with Lee Schlingmann – Buddy will provide captions for the old photographs he has provided for posting on the website.**
- **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.
 - I. This will be an ongoing project as time permits.
 - II. **Sue Monaghan to determine whether or not the Township office is able to scan documents in the HC files.**

V. Discussion - New Business

- **East Fallowfield Park Day – October 10, 2015 – Request had been sent to Historical Commission to participate by having representative(s) on hand to describe the HC mission and activities.**
 - i. **Buddy Rhoades suggested he might be available to split activities between Veterans interests and Historical Commission – may have some photographs to display.**
- **2960 Strasburg Road – pursuant to some inquiries from residents as to the status of the renovation project, a site visit was made, and it was determined that no work had been done at the former one-room schoolhouse and Class II historic resource in months, Grass and weeds have overgrown, and the structure has been left unprotected from damage by neglect.**
 - i. **Joe McCormick stated he had attempted e-mail communication with the owner, Calvin Swartrazentruber, but had not received a response.**
 - ii. **Joe McCormick contacted Rob McLarnon by e-mail to inquire if he knew what was going on at the property, no response as yet from Rob.**
 - iii. **The HC agreed that a letter be sent to Rob McLarnon expressing the Commission’s concern with the potential for additional damage to the structure by neglect, with a copy to the BOS. Joe McCormick to prepare letter.**
- **Chester County Historical Society Membership Renewal – the Commission voted unanimously to renew membership at the rate of \$125. It was also noted that membership cards had not been received for the last membership renewal – make sure to request**

cards be sent this year. Sue Monaghan will contact CCHS to see if a better renewal rate is available.

- **Chester County Historical Society – Partnership Request – the Commission voted unanimously NOT to accept the invitation to partner at the rate of \$1,000 (or other amount deemed appropriate) in the creation of a permanent exhibition “*Chester County: A Place in History*”.**
- **Chester County Historic Preservation Network (CCHPN) Membership Renewal – the Commission voted unanimously to renew membership at the rate of \$85.**
- **Chester County Historic Preservation Network (CCHPN) Workshop – Fall 2015 Workshop is to be held on October 24, 2015 at Olivet United Methodist Church in Coatesville. The Commission voted unanimously to provide up to two (2) admission fees at the member rate of \$15 per person.**
- **Preservation Pennsylvania Membership request – the Commission voted unanimously to NOT renew membership in this organization for the coming year.**
- **“The Sixties” - an invitation to attend this function at the Chester County Historical Society was circulated to all Commission members.**
- **Historical Resources of concern – the Commission discussed several properties whose owners had appeared before the commission in recent months to discuss renovation plans that are of concern to the Commission. The historic resources in question are as follow:**
 - i. **19 Rokeby Road – historic resource known as the Ida Ruth Jones House, has been undergoing repairs and modifications that are inconsistent with the recommendations of the Historical Commission provided to the owner, Saer Kahn, when he appeared before the HC to discuss his renovation plans in December 2014.**
 - 1. **It was noted that HC members had visited the property and found that ongoing renovations may be structurally inadequate and may be installed without appropriate permits and inspections.**
 - 2. **Further noted that the HC had asked Rob McLarnon to verify permit and inspection status in January 2015; did not hear anything further.**
 - 3. **Of particular note was the installation of large windows on the street side of the structure, which would have required structural modification, and deviate considerably from the original appearance of the structure, detracting from the architectural significance of the historic resource.**
 - 4. **Commission voted unanimously that a letter be sent to Rob McLarnon inquiring as to permit and inspection status, noting the deviations from HC recommendations. Joe McCormick to prepare letter with a copy to the BOS.**

- ii. **2935 Strasburg Road – historic resource and part of the Strasburg Road Thematic District, formerly known as the Anthony Burton House.**
 1. **Noted that the owners appeared before the HC in November of 2014 with proposed renovation plans. HC made certain recommendations as to the proposal to leave the front facade as little changed as possible by new work. No renovation is evident at this time.**
 2. **Noted that the property had been listed for sale earlier this year.**
 3. **The condition of the property was a concern, grass had not been maintained and apparently old vehicles are being stored on the property. The HC agreed that as no alterations were being undertaken, there is not any specific HC concern, however the maintenance issues and vehicle storage may be in conflict with other Township ordinance.**

VI. Adjourn Meeting – meeting adjourned at 7:20PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe McCormick

Joe McCormick
Chairman
East Fallowfield Historical Commission