



East Fallowfield Historical Commission

Approved Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2016

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 6:42pm

II. Meeting attendance

- Joe McCormick, Sue Monaghan, Buddy Rhoades, and Lee Schlingman present. Absent: Arthur DeLeo, and Fred Bissinger. **Quorum was met.**

III. Review of minutes of prior meeting

- Minutes of October 5, 2016 meeting were reviewed and by unanimous vote, accepted as written.,

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. **A pre-application meeting for DVRPC Transportation Alternatives (TA) grants for 2017 was to be held in October 2016. Such a grant could be utilized to modify the recently completed Mortonville Bridge by adding a stone veneer to the insides of the concrete bridge walls. The EFT office staff was unable to find any invitation or other materials pertaining to such a meeting. Joe McCormick will contact the agency for any information.**
 - ii. **It was noted that a number of stress cracks have been observed in the concrete walls at the bridge. Of interest is that the cracks appear in the precast concrete wall sections, and not in the vertical expansion joints as might be expected.**
 - **Frog Hollow Bridge (Speakman’s No. 1 Covered Bridge)** – PennDOT renovation and repair project for the historic resource.
 - i. **The renovation of the bridge was substantially completed in October 2016, and the bridge has been reopened to traffic. It was noted that the communication from PennDOT and the project management team relative to construction progress was quite good as compared to earlier bridge renovation projects.**
 - ii. **There has been some concerns raised by interested parties that the red color the bridge has been painted is not similar to the color the bridge had been painted prior to renovation. The issue is that the bridge appeared to be more of a “barn red” previously, whereas it is a “brighter” red now. Also of note is that a number of residents present at the opening of the bridge liked the color as is. The contractor observed that the red color will be susceptible to fading, which may result in a similarity to the old color.**
 - iii. **The Commission members expressed concerns that there were no invitations to the opening extended to the Commission.**
 - **Historic Resource Map and Windshield Survey** – modifications to the Windshield Survey are needed.
 - i. **The windshield survey database has been updated to reflect the ownership information currently available.**
 - **Website Additions** – HC plans to enhance the Township website appeal by adding photos and other information pertaining to the Township’s historic resources.
-

- i. **Following discussions with EFT office staff, there is interest in pursuing a Facebook presence for the EFT HC, with a link to the page appearing on the EFT website if possible. HC will further investigate this possibility.**
- **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. **Joe McCormick stated that a volume of Historic Resource data compiled by Peg Young had been scanned and stored on a thumb drive.**
 - II. **It has been thought that there may be a box or boxes of documents, photos, and other information compiled by the Historical Commission years ago that may be stored in the “attic” at the EFTY building. The office staff was contacted, and they will survey what is there and advise the HC. This information, if it exists, may then also be scanned and stored in a digital format.**
- **2960 Strasburg Road** – renovation of the historic resource and former one-room schoolhouse had been started by the owner, Calvin Swartzentruber of Parkesburg, PA, but subsequently suspended. The structure is now in danger of demolition by neglect as it has been left unprotected from the elements. Some windows have been removed and left uncovered, and siding materials and stucco have been removed leaving the exposed mortar subject to weatherization and degradation. Grass and landscaping has been left unattended.
 - I. **The situation of 2690 Strasburg Road was again discussed by the HC. The former one-room schoolhouse renovation project has apparently been abandoned, and the building is now deteriorating and grass and vegetation is overgrown. The present condition of the structure and property is in violation of a number of EFT ordinance provisions. It was unanimously agreed that a letter of concern be forwarded to the BOS for action. Joe McCormick will prepare a memo outlining the conditions and the concerns of the HC.**
- **People’s Hall** – a Class I historic resource which is included in the Ercildoun Thematic District (National Register of Historic Places), built in 1845 by the abolitionist group, East Fallowfield Anti-Slavery Society to hold their meetings, subsequently being home to various groups and meetings in the Township. Most recently the home of the Fallowfield Historic Society, which was disbanded in 2015, the structure has fallen in to disrepair and is of concern to the HC. A new Board of Trustees is in place, and 501(c)(3) non-profit organization status has been granted.
 - I. The structure had been recognized as a *Pennsylvania at Risk* property by Preservation Pennsylvania as one of the Commonwealth’s most endangered historic resource. It was stated that the present board of trustees does not have specific experience in fundraising, and there is concern that the notoriety obtained by being identified as an “at risk” property is not being leveraged to attract funds (grants, etc.)
 - II. **An article about the building has been prepared and submitted for inclusion in the upcoming Township newsletter.**

V. **Discussion - New Business**

- **A solicitation for new members for the Historical Commission has been posted on the EFT web page. In response to the posting, two prospective members, Chris Brill and Anthony Jenks, appeared at the meeting and discussed their interests. The prospective members were advised that the commission would make recommendations to the BOS, who appoints members to the Historical Commission.**

- One of the prospective members is not presently an East Fallowfield Township resident, but stated an interest in moving to the Township. HC will investigate whether or not non-residency is a disqualifier for membership on the Commission.
- The HC by unanimous vote agreed to renew the membership in the Chester County Historic Preservation Network. The annual membership fee is \$85.
- Discussed possibility of creating a Facebook presence for the HC. It was agreed that a formal request for approval be sent to the Board of Supervisors. Joe McCormick prepared a request, and the HC unanimously approved the request be sent to the BOS as written.
- The commission members present met privately at the conclusion of the meeting to discuss the candidates present at the meeting interested in joining the commission.
- 218 Buck Run – old brick schoolhouse discussion by Buddy Rhoades

VI. **Adjourn Meeting** – meeting adjourned at 7:52PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe McCormick

Joe McCormick
Chairman
East Fallowfield Historical Commission