



East Fallowfield Historical Commission

Approved Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2015

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

II. Meeting attendance

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

III. Review of minutes of prior meeting

- Minutes of January 7, 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. Buddy Rhoades indicated he had further discussion with Sen. Dinnimin’s office. He was advised that they will contact him.
 - **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. 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.
 - 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
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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.
 - iii. The HC voted to approve expenditures from the budget to add some information to the Township website to include pictures and documents. It is understood that Sue Haldeman's rate is \$90 per hour, and she would pro-rate her time/billing. It was suggested that Sue's bill be sent to the attention of the Historical Commission for payment.
 - iv. Lee will check at the Township office to determine if they still have the photos provided by the HC previously. Lee confirmed that they do have the photos.
 - v. The Commission voted to approve expenditure from budget to have photos placed 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.
- 1) **2960 Strasburg Road** – the owner of the property 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. 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.
- 2) **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. 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.
 - ii. 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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iii. Additional concerns have been raised that a permit for the renovation has not been applied for or issued. The HC has not been provided with a permit application for review and recommendation.

iv. Joe McCormick will follow up with Rob McLarnon to express concerns

3) 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.

- v. 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.
- vi. 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.
- vii. 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.
- viii. Representatives of the HC visited the site to inspect the condition of the property pursuant to the application for a demolition permit. It was agreed that the structures in question have deteriorated due to neglect to the extent that renovation or preservation may not be feasible. Opinion to be discussed at subsequent HC meeting.
- ix. Further review of the property is warranted due to designation as Class I and National Register listed. The Township ordinances have more stringent requirements for the demolition of Class I properties. The HC needs to conduct additional research to determine why the structures, which appear to be of little historic significance, may have been listed as they are.
- x. The HC believes the data included in the Historic Resource Inventory may be in error as the structures do not represent any building methods or materials typically considered to be of historic significance.
- xi. The HC has decided that the current owners must provide evidence of ownership prior to recommendation that the demolition permit be issued.

4) 775 Fairview Road - a group representing the Chester County Department of Emergency Services previously appeared before the Historical Commission to present plans and discuss proposed

modifications to the existing communication tower (increasing overall height) 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) Submitted plans were reviewed by HC. New structures are to be essentially the same in style and construction as the existing. The HC found no reason to object to the plans as presented, and so notified the BOS. The HC did recommend that screening plantings be placed to shield view from road to the extent possible.
- ii) Buddy Rhoades expressed some concerns with respect to the height of the tower and use of the other tower.

V. Discussion - New Business

- **House of His Creation Barn Renovation** – Buddy Rhoades indicated this work is presently on hold.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Monaghan

Sue Monaghan
Historical Commission Secretary