



East Fallowfield Historical Commission

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2017

2017 Historical Commission Members:

Joe McCormick, Chairman Arthur DeLeo Lee Schlingmann Becca Hunt Chad Peterson
Sue Monaghan, Secretary Fred Bissinger Buddy Rhoades Connie McLaughlin

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 6:32pm

II. Meeting attendance

- Joe McCormick, Lee Schlingmann, Sue Monaghan, Becca Hunt, Connie McLaughlin, and Chad Peterson present. Absent: Fred Bissinger, Arthur DeLeo, and Buddy Rhoades. **Quorum met.**

III. Review of minutes of prior meeting

- Minutes of the February 1, 2017 meeting were reviewed and unanimously voted to be approved 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.
 - Discussed the anticipated invitation for application for Transportation Alternatives grant expected to be offered in Fall of 2017 for the following year.**
 - Becca indicated that she has grant writing experience which may be useful**
 - Becca shared a photo of a recently completed bridge project in Honeybrook, which had the stone veneer lacking in the Mortonville Bridge renovation. Several members referenced the bridge on Rte 82 also completed in the same time frame which had a stone veneer as well.**
 - **Historic Resource Map and Windshield Survey**
 - A revised spreadsheet of historic resources detailed in the last Windshield Survey was distributed. Changes included updating property owners from the County database of November 2015, some address corrections, and other minor changes.**
 - Sue described what some of the information included in the database meant, and how the original survey was compiled.**
 - Becca asked about researching some of the properties to determine if they had been added to the National Register, and she was encouraged to do any such research she could to assemble more information.**
 - A column was added to the database for “photos”, which will have a designator in the cell indicated that there is a picture available for the property listing. Sue noted that being able to view the property might be a problem unless the owner provided specific approval to allow their property to be viewed. Joe will investigate further what will be required in order to introduce a feature such as this.**
 - Joe indicated that he had spoken to EFT office staff about leaving a copy of the historic resource inventory database with them for use when residents were inquiring about building permits. A copy will be provided.**
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- vi. A recommendation of the EFT Comprehensive Plan Task Force was to update the Windshield Survey.
 - **Historical Commission Facebook Page**
 - i. Connie McLaughlin agreed to take a lead role in getting this project started.
 - ii. **Connie indicated that she had put together a framework, but was looking for some additional source material to include to keep it interesting.**
 - **Electronic Storage of Historical Commission documents and records** – project for scanning and preserving stored historic 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.
 - It was stated that the BOS has no objections to HC members inspecting stored materials related to historic preservation.
 - **2960 Strasburg Road** – renovation of the historic resource and former one-room schoolhouse had been started, but was left incomplete, and the project abandoned. The structure is now in danger of demolition by neglect as it has been left unprotected from the effects of weather and intrusion by vermin or unauthorized entry by trespassers.
 - I. **A letter was sent to the new owner of the property, Richard Gorgo, advising him that the property was a historic resource, and congratulating him on his purchase.**
 - II. **A letter was sent to the BOS requesting that they take some action with respect to the new owner, to protect the resource from further damage. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN BY THE BOS. This is disturbing as the HC has no authority other than advising the BOS when action is warranted.**
 - III. **The EFTHC members agreed that a certified letter be sent to the new owner outlining the commission’s concerns, and offering suggestions for the protection of the property.**
 - **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.
 - 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.
 - II. Information pertaining to this resource should be included on HCF Facebook presence.
 - III. **There was discussion about the public events that have been scheduled at People’s Hall.**
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- **Membership solicitation**
 - I. A solicitation for new members for the Historical Commission has been posted on the EFT web page.
 - II. Fred Bissinger stated that it would become increasingly difficult for him to continue with the HC. EFT will be contacted to begin solicitation for registered PA architect.
 - Joe McCormick has reached out to several local architects to see if they had any architects on their staffs that might be interested in the EFT vacancy.
 - Arthur DeLeo offered to make some calls in this effort as well.
 - III. **No new activity relative to membership.**
- **Permit Application Review** – the HC discussed an ongoing problem with building permits being issued for renovations to properties included in the EFT inventory of historic resources (Windshield Survey) without referral to the EFT HC for review and comment.
 - I. **Joe discussed a conversation he had with Rob McLarnon**

V. **Discussion - New Business**

- **Joe had a discussion with Rob McLarnon during which Rob had stated that Rich Rasmussen had commented that the EFTHC had given him authorization to proceed with his renovation activities. Rob was advised that the HC has never authorized any work be undertaken by a resident, their plans are reviewed for compatibility with historic preservation only. The HC always refers residents to the permit application process. It was further indicated that proper permits had not been issued for the work, contrary to what the HC had been told by the owner.**
- **Joe distributed the packets of reference and resource materials from the CCHPN spring workshop to the members for their information.**
- **A new organization, the Metro Coatesville History Project, is having a meeting on April 20 to discuss means of working with other groups and individuals interested in local history and historic preservation education.**
- **Chad Peterson officially welcomed after BOS appointment to the Commission.**
- **CCHPN training calendar provided**
- **It was discussed that one of the Supervisors is assigned as a liaison to the HC, however none of the members was aware of who that is. It is desirable to contact that person to review issues such as 2960 Strasburg. Joe will find out which Supervisor has been assigned to the HC, and contact that individual.**

VI. **Adjourn Meeting** – meeting adjourned at 8:47PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe McCormick

Joe McCormick
Chairman
East Fallowfield Historical Commission