

East Fallowfield Township Historic Commission

2264 Strasburg Road
610-384-7144

Chairman: Paula Latta Coyne

Member: Fred Bissinger

Member: Arthur DeLeo

Member: Sue Monaghan

Member: Lee Schlingman

APPROVED MINUTES

November 14, 2007 Historic Commission Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Paula Coyne, Chairman, Members: Arthur DeLeo, Lee Schlingman, Fred Bissinger, Sue Monaghan.

Independent Consultant: Jane Dorchester, Architectural Historian

Guests: Cristin Rojas; John & Marnie de Carville

Secretary: Deirdre K. Desiderio

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Paula Coyne.
Paula Coyne welcomes guest, Cristin Rojas.

Approval of October 10, 2007 Meeting Minutes: Sue Monaghan moves to approve the October 10, 2007 minutes. Lee Schlingman 2nd. Vote: Unanimous.

DEFINITIONS OF BASIC HISTORIC PRESERVATION TERMINOLOGY

Jane Dorchester distributes a 6 page Basic Historic Preservation Terminology list which can be used by the Commission as a tool for the proper use of each of the historic terms. Jane explains, "What may be confusing is that these words are used in every day speech, but in Preservation they have very specific meanings. Also, when making presentations to the Supervisors, or when people come in to do their presentations, you will be using the terminology correctly and you can begin to educate the public, the Supervisors and the staff of the correct usage". (The attached list was reviewed in detail).

Jane Dorchester suggests that the Township have available the two Guides found on page 6 of the handouts: "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation" and "How to Complete the National Register Registration Form". She also spoke about having a copy of the three (3) Standard Guidelines shown on page 6.

Jane also explains about Non-Contributing and Contributing Resources. Art DeLeo states "the Non-Contributing Resource is the trick question among the Developers, because they will use that as leverage" Jane says, yes because of the one line "...or it doesn't stand on its own". The developers try to make you prove the negative, but the HC should be positive and ask the question "Is it Contributing", not "Is it Non-Contributing"? All three points need to be true in order for it to be contributing.

Jane Dorchester explains, "Condition and Integrity are two totally different things. It doesn't matter what condition it is in as long as it still has integrity. There are some instances where the condition can impinge on the integrity".

Jane gives an explanation of what Class 1; Class 2 and Class 3 means according to Historic Preservation as is listed on the handouts.

Each building on a property can be designated as a specific class. Paula Coyne states, "The Classifications set the bar higher so that if someone tries to demolish then it goes into the demolition or the removal of historic resources. Because if it is designated as a Class 1 it makes it a little harder for them to tear it down and they also have to provide more documentation of the place if they are going to knock it down.

It was suggested by Jane, when completed, the list should be updated at least every other year; ideally every year.

Fred Bissinger asks, "Is there any sort of process that would be put in for owners to question and object to the classification?" Jane answered, "Once we are comfortable with the list of classifications, you need to make an appt with the BOS to do a professional presentation at a public meeting. Tell them that it is part of the ordinance. Make a status report at every BOS meeting to give an update. And then later put a draft onto the website. Jane suggests that she would be glad to make the presentation to the BOS when decided.

Jane Dorchester suggests only looking over a few pictures tonight along with the inventory, to see how to begin and then later a group of members get together to complete it since it will take a long time. And after it is completed the committee can present it to the other members to vote on the final classifications.

The Committee started to look through the first couple of photos to vote on the classifications. The easier way of doing it is to put the classes on the spreadsheet, and then you can go back and link the pictures to the spreadsheet. Arthur DeLeo suggested having another computer in order to look through the pictures and the spreadsheet simultaneously.

Paula Coyne suggested having Sue Haldeman assist in combining the pictures and spreadsheet. Arthur DeLeo suggested setting it up by Classification.

OLD BUSINESS:

Paula Coyne asked if a letter was sent to Ashley Hickman regarding the HC requests noted on the minutes from the HC meeting on October 10, 2007. No letter was sent from the office. The letter needs to be sent from one of the members of the HC as was advised to the Admin Assist. Jane Dorchester stated that if Paula Coyne emails her a summary of what Paula would like said in the letter, Jane will assist in the letter. The reason why Paula asked is because she noticed as soon as the HC minutes were out the tree went down at the site.

NEW BUSINESS:

Paula Coyne stated, "On Monday, Nov 11th, at 9:30am a large PTK Semi truck with concrete culvert pipe was starting to go over the Mortonville Bridge but he wasn't sure. I pulled in front of him, because obviously the load was overweight. I made him back into Creek Rd so he

couldn't go over the bridge. He called the dispatcher who then announced, ' I don't know what the problem is, we already sent three trucks over the bridge this morning you go ahead'. The truck driver said no, there is a lady here and said I can't do it. The dispatcher said, 'you go ahead just drive over the middle of the bridge'. At this point, I called the police. The truck driver did have a conscience and didn't drive over the bridge. Pete Mango did arrive at the scene.

The Historic Commission recommends to the Board of Supervisors to have more vigilance as possible at the bridge in as far as having someone sitting at the location. I asked Denise if she could call the West Bradford Township Secretary and inform the foreman that they aren't to send overweight trucks over the Mortonville Bridge. Paula did have a meeting with Dee Durham of SAVE as to what the next step should be and hopefully Paula will be in touch with Penn Dot to see what else we can do. Paula would like to see on the front page of the website that there is a weight limit on the Mortonville Bridge of 15 tons and that we will enforce the weight limit.

OTHER BUSINESS:

John and Marnie de Carville (the old Joseph Gladden house) were present at the meeting to inquire as to who the construction company was next to their property because they are getting closer and closer to their property. They have a meeting with the Engineer at Rouse Chamberlain. Iacobucci, the Townhouse Builders owns the property next to the de Carville's. There is a townhouse being built right next to their home. Jane Dorchester states that if the Builder makes any changes to the original plans that were approved by the Board of Supervisors, then that is a cease and desist order. It was suggested to the de Carville's to go to the Township to obtain the approved plans and obtain a lawyer to inquire.

DONATION:

Jane Dorchester is donating three (3) books to the Historic Committee: "Field Guide to American Houses", "Old House Dictionary" and "the American Architecture - A Guide to the Styles". The HC Committee members thanked Jane for her generosity.

Paula Coyne motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:55PM. Lee Schlingman 2nd. Vote Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Deirdre K. Desiderio, Secretary