



# ***East Fallowfield Historical Commission***

## ***Unapproved Meeting Minutes***

***December 3, 2014***

### **I. Call to Order**

- Meeting called to order at 6:37pm

### **II. Meeting attendance**

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

### **III. Review of minutes of prior meeting**

- Minutes of November 5, 2014 unavailable, review and adoption of minutes deferred.

### **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. No further update available.
  - **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.
  - **Historic Resource Map and Windshield Survey** – modifications to the Windshield Survey are needed.
    - i. Sue Monaghan located a disc with the survey, the information can now be updated as required.
    - ii. No modifications made as yet.
  - **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.

- **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.
- **2935 Strasburg Road** – Property owner and contractor appeared before the Historical Commission at the October meeting to discuss plans for a substantial renovation of the property. Recommendations made as to aesthetic appearance, referred property owner to Rob McLarnon for permitting. Commission sent review comments to Rob McLarnon for his information.
  - i. No further information at this time.
- **2960 Strasburg Road** – the owner of the proper has appeared before the Historical Commission at his request to discuss proposed renovation and remodeling of the structure at his address.
  - i. Limited 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.

#### V. Discussion - New Business

- **19 Rokeby Road** – the owner of the proper, Saer Kahn, appeared before the Historical Commission to discuss the proposed renovation and remodeling of the structure at this address. Mr. Kahn described serious deterioration of the roof and other structural damage which required attention to prevent further damage. He discussed his intent to raise the roof elevation to create additional interior headroom. Mr. Kahn shared a copy of a painting prepared by a previous occupant, Ida Ella Ruth Jones depicting the structure as it may have appeared around the year 1900.
    - i. The Commission advised Mr. Kahn to have plans prepared and submitted to the Code Enforcement officer for review together with building permit application materials for his proposed renovation. Mr. Kahn was advised that structural modifications such as changing roof elevation and roof pitch and wall modifications are all structural changes that the Code Enforcement official would want to review and inspect.
    - ii. The Historical Commission had previously determined that the property is listed as a Class II historic resource within the Township, listed as being built approximately in 1830, although a portion of the structure is constructed of logs, suggesting an earlier construction date. The property is known as the Ida Jones house, Ms. Jones being a prominent local artist and daughter of a former slave
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often referred to as “The Grandma Moses of Chester County”. A memorial marker has been placed at the corner of Rokeby and Doe Run to commemorate her life.

- iii. Commission member Fred Bissinger had previously visited the property with the owner, and had suggested a conceptual floor plan layout to assist with his renovation planning.
  - iv. The Historical Commission was able to find a picture and artist rendering of the property to share with Mr. Kahn, depicting the appearance of the house at an undetermined date.
  - v. Mr. Kahn discussed changing the siding of the house to improve its appearance. He mentioned using a vinyl siding. Several members offered that such siding would detract from the characteristics of the property. It was recommended that Mr. Kahn visit a building material supplier to look at siding materials, and consider a siding more in keeping with the period of the house such as a “German” lapped style of siding.
- **Resident Inquiry** – a Township resident residing on Mink Hollow Road appeared before the Commission with a copy of an old local map (actually the same vintage as the map mounted on the wall at the Township building) and inquired as to whether the Commission could help determine the age of the map. The resident was advised to visit the Chester County Historical Society for help. The Commission only able to approximate the date.

**VI. Adjourn Meeting** – meeting adjourned at 8:07.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Joe McCormick*

Joe McCormick  
Historical Commission Chairman