



East Fallowfield Historical Commission Approved Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2015

- I. **Call to Order**
 - Meeting called to order at 6:35pm

 - II. **Meeting attendance**
 - Joe McCormick, Garth Monaghan, Sue Monaghan, Lee Schlingmann, Buddy Rhoades, and Arthur Deleo present. Absent Fred Bissinger. Quorum met.

 - III. **Review of minutes of prior meeting**
 - Minutes of October 7, 2015 reviewed and approved.

 - 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. **Karen Marshall of the Chester County Historical Preservation Network addressed the Commission with information about the Transportation Alternatives (TA) funding. She indicated that enhancement of the Mortonville Bridge is an excellent candidate for funding, and had been discussed as an important focus in Chester County.**
 1. TA applications are being accepted from 11/2/15 to 1/8/16.
 2. There will be an informational meeting, date to be determined, and Karen encouraged a representative of the East Fallowfield Historical Commission together with another representative of the Township (Planning Commission or BOS) to attend.
 3. There is \$7.5M available from DVRPC and another \$26M available from the Commonwealth for the coming period.
 4. Karen had received information submitted by Commission member Fred Bissinger that provided a description of a proposed stone veneer application to the inside of the bridge walls, Karen said the information had been useful in discussions about potential re-work for the bridge.
 5. HC agreed to let the process play out as opposed to actively soliciting for rework. Apply for the TA initiative program and et Karen Marshall continue to be an advocate for the bridge rehabilitation.
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- **Frog Hollow Bridge (Speakman's No. 1 Covered Bridge)** – construction scheduled to commence later this year.
 - i. PennDOT contacted with respect to communication provisions agreed to as a part of the Section 106 meeting of concerned parties. No response.
 - ii. As of this date, no work has been started to renovate the bridge. Joe McCormick stated that he had forwarded a letter to PennDOT which requested (1) what the status of the proposed work and schedule is, and (2) why a monthly progress report has not been sent as was agreed to during the Section 106 public meeting held in February of 2014.
 - iii. **No further update**
- **Historic Resource Map and Windshield Survey** – modifications to the Windshield Survey are needed.
 - i. Joe McCormick has input much of the Property Owner information on to the windshield survey and made some other updates to the data
 - ii. A suggestion to update the map and survey is included on the Comprehensive plan to be proposed to the BOS.
 - iii. Comprehensive Plan recommends hiring a consultant to update the plan.
- **Website Additions** – HC plans to enhance the Township website appeal by adding photos and other information pertaining to the Township's historic resources.
 - i. Buddy Rhoades to work with Lee Schlingmann – Buddy will provide captions for the old photographs he has provided for posting 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.
 - I. This will be an ongoing project as time permits.
 - II. Sue Monaghan to determine whether or not the Township office is able to scan documents in the HC files.
- **2960 Strasburg Road** - pursuant to some inquiries from residents as to the status of the renovation project, a site visit was made, and it was determined that no work had been done at the former one-room schoolhouse and Class II historic resource in months, Grass and weeds have overgrown, and the structure has been left unprotected from damage by neglect.
 - I. The HC agreed that a letter be sent to Rob McLaranon expressing the Commission's concern with the potential for additional damage to the structure by neglect, with a copy to the BOS. Joe McCormick to prepare letter

- II. Letter prepared and forwarded to Rob McLarnon with copy to BOS; no further information has been received as of meeting date.
- **19 Rokeby Road** - historic resource known as the Ida Ruth Jones House, has been undergoing repairs and modifications that are inconsistent with the recommendations of the Historical Commission provided to the owner, Saer Kahn, when he appeared before the HC to discuss his renovation plans in December 2014.
 - I. Commission voted unanimously that a letter be sent to Rob McLarnon inquiring as to permit and inspection status, noting the deviations from HC recommendations. Joe McCormick to prepare letter with a copy to the BOS.
 - II. Letter prepared and forwarded to Rob McLarnon with copy to BOS; Rob has been in communication with the owner about work done to date.

V. Discussion - New Business

- Chester County Historical Society Membership Renewal – the Commission voted unanimously to renew membership at the rate of \$125. It was also noted that membership cards had not been received for the last membership renewal – make sure to request cards be sent this year. Sue Monaghan will contact CCHS to see if a better renewal rate is available.
- **Historical Resources of concern – the Commission discussed several properties whose owners had appeared before the commission in recent months to discuss renovation plans that are of concern to the Commission. The historic resources in question are as follow:**
 - i. **2935 Strasburg Road – historic resource and part of the Strasburg Road Thematic District, formerly known as the Anthony Burton House.**
 - 1. **Noted that the owners appeared before the HC in November of 2014 with proposed renovation plans. HC made certain recommendations as to the proposal to leave the front facade as little changed as possible by new work. No renovation is evident at this time.**
 - 2. **Noted that the property had been listed for sale earlier this year.**
 - ii. **The condition of the property was a concern, grass had not been maintained and apparently old vehicles are being stored on the property. The HC agreed that as no alterations were being undertaken, there is not any specific HC concern, however the maintenance issues and vehicle storage may be in conflict with other Township ordinance.**
- **People’s Hall in distress**
 - i. **Joe McCormick advised the HC that the East Fallowfield Historic Society had disbanded, and turned over their remaining funds to the Trustees of People’s Hall. This group had generally been responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the building.**

- ii. The People's Hall trustees are reorganizing, and investigating potential sources of funding to be able to undertake much needed renovations and repairs to the structure.
 - iii. The People's Hall is included in the Township's inventory of Historic Resources. As such, Joe McCormick filed an application for consideration for "Pennsylvania at Risk" on behalf of the HC with Preservation PA.
 - iv. Karen Marshall suggested reaching out to the Iron and Steel Museum for possible association with the "300 Years of Iron and Steel"
- Gath Monaghan discussed solar energy and specifically solar collection panels installed in historic and other properties in the Township
 - i. Joe McCormick noted that from a historic resource perspective, the Department of the Interior has generally accepted solar panels as appropriate for historic properties – with efforts to conceal the installation from "the street" to the extent possible.
 - ii. The HC generally agreed that permitting and inspection of solar energy installations should be required.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe McCormick

Joe McCormick
Chairman
East Fallowfield Historical Commission