



East Fallowfield Historical Commission

Approved Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2016

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 6:35pm

II. Meeting attendance

- Joe McCormick, Arthur DeLeo, Lee Schlingman present. Absent: Buddy Rhoades, Fred Bissinger, and Sue Monaghan. **Quorum was not met.**

III. Review of minutes of prior meeting

- Minutes of August 3, 2016 and September 7, 2016 were reviewed.

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. **A pre-application meeting for DVRPC Transportation Alternatives (TA) grants for 2017 will be held in October 2016. Application material was sent to EFT last year, and there was no response from the Township, and the Historical Commission was not advised. Joe McCormick will contact the EFT office and ask that they advise of any application materials and/or meeting announcements received relative to the TA grant opportunity.**
 - ii. **It was noted that a number of stress cracks have been observed in the concrete walls at the bridge.**
 - **Frog Hollow Bridge (Speakman’s No. 1 Covered Bridge)** – PennDOT renovation and repair project for the historic resource.
 - i. **Work on the bridge restoration is progressing. A Progress/Status report provided by CHRS, Inc. dated September 1, 2016 was distributed and reviewed. It was noted that the upcoming construction milestone schedule attached was only projected through September 2, therefore the schedule and accompanying photographs were substantially out-of-date.**
 - **Historic Resource Map and Windshield Survey** – modifications to the Windshield Survey are needed.
 - i. **The windshield survey database has been updated to reflect the ownership information currently available.**
 - **Website Additions** – HC plans to enhance the Township website appeal by adding photos and other information pertaining to the Township’s historic resources.
 - i. **No further update presented.**
 - **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.
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I. Joe McCormick stated that a volume of Historic Resource data compiled by Peg Young had been scanned and stored on a thumb drive.

- **2960 Strasburg Road** – renovation of the historic resource and former one-room schoolhouse had been started by the owner, Calvin Swartzentruber of Parkesburg, PA, but subsequently suspended. The structure is now in danger of demolition by neglect as it has been left unprotected from the elements. Some windows have been removed and left uncovered, and siding materials and stucco have been removed leaving the exposed mortar subject to weatherization and degradation. Grass and landscaping has been left unattended.

I. It had previously been reported to the HC that the owner of the property may be deceased. Information to the contrary had also been reported recently. In either case, the property is presently at risk. With the absence of a quorum, no action on how best to proceed to protect this historic resource was for forth.

- **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. Most recently the home of the Fallowfield Historic Society, which was disbanded in 2015, the structure has fallen in to disrepair and is of concern to the HC. A new Board of Trustees is in place, and 501(c)(3) non-profit organization status has been granted.

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. It was stated that the present board of trustees does not have specific experience in fundraising, and there is concern that the notoriety obtained by being identified as an "at risk" property is not being leveraged to attract funds (grants, etc.)

II. An article about the building has been prepared and submitted for inclusion in the upcoming Township newsletter.

V. Discussion - New Business

- **An invitation from the Chester County Historical Society for "an Evening of Artistic Exploration – The Visionary World of Humphrey Marshall 1750 – 1800" was distributed.**
- **A discussion on the solicitation of additional member(s) was discussed to fill the vacancy created by the passing of Garth Monaghan. Joe McCormick will advise the EFT office to begin advertising for interested residents.**
- **Discussed possibility of creating a Facebook presence for the HC**
- **The meeting was attended by an interested resident.**

VI. Adjourn Meeting – meeting adjourned at 7:45PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe McCormick

Joe McCormick
Chairman
East Fallowfield Historical Commission