



East Fallowfield Historical Commission

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2016

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 6:35pm

II. Meeting attendance

- Joe McCormick, Buddy Rhoades, Fred Bissinger, Sue Monaghan, Arthur DeLeo, and Lee Schlingman present. Absent: Garth Monaghan **Quorum met.**

III. Review of minutes of prior meeting

- Minutes of February 3, 2016 were reviewed and accepted 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.
 - i. Joe McCormick reported that the application deadline for DVRPC Transportation Alternatives (TA) grants for 2016 had lapsed, East Fallowfield Township had not applied for the funding opportunity. It was further noted that the application materials had been sent to the Township, however they were never passed on to the Historical Commission for review, comment or recommendation.
 - ii. Joe McCormick met with Karen Marshall, Heritage Preservation Coordinator, Chester County Planning Commission, and Brian Blacker at the Chester County Government Services Center on January 29, 2016 to discuss opportunities for TA grant for next year.
 - iii. There is interest in funding a project to add stone veneer to the insides of the bridge surfaces. Fred Bissinger’s sketch previously provided to Karen Marshall was reviewed. It was stated that this is a project which would fit well with their objectives.
 - iv. Joe McCormick requested that a set of the plans for the bridge project be made available for potential masonry contractors. It was stated that local supporters may have to provide cost estimates and preliminary plans.
 - v. A pre-application meeting will be held in October 2016.
 - **Frog Hollow Bridge (Speakman’s No. 1 Covered Bridge)** – PennDOT renovation and repair project for the historic resource.
 - i. Joe McCormick sent a letter to the PennDOT consulting project manager, Ryan Whittington on November 11, 2015 requesting a status update on the renovation project. At the Section 106 Consulting Parties Meeting held on February 20, 2014, PennDOT had committed to providing monthly status updates to Joe McCormick, representing East Fallowfield Township, and Richard Buchanan, AIA. No updates have been received as of the date of this meeting. No response to the November 1, 2015 letter has been received.
 - ii. Renovation work has started on the bridge. To date, it appears that siding and roofing materials have been removed from the bridge structure. Buddy Rhoades reported visiting the jobsite, and stated that the siding had been loaded on trucks and removed to the contractor’s location in Lancaster, PA. Materials are to be reused to the extent possible during the renovation.
 - iii. Joe McCormick met with Karen Marshall to discuss the project. She is reaching out to PennDOT to request that they provide project updates as committed to. Karen advised that Richard Buchanan,
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AIA has been regularly visiting the jobsite, and has been documenting progress with photographs. A link to where the photos have been dropped will be forthcoming.

- iv. Joe McCormick had written letters to Sen. Andy Dinniman and Rep. Harry Lewis on November 24, 2015 requesting assistance in communication with PennDOT concerning the project, no responses have been received to these letters.
- **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.
 - iv. **No further update presented.**
 - **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.
 - ii. **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.
 - 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.
 - III. **No further update presented.**
 - **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. Pursuant to a request from the Historical Commission, Rob McLarnon contacted the owner about the property renovation, and confirmed that the owner has some health issues which are preventing him from continued renovation work and routine maintenance.
 - II. Rob McLarnon conveyed the Historical Commission's concerns about demolition by neglect to the owner, and asked if he could have someone secure the building for him. Reportedly, the owner will look in to that possibility. No further action has been taken, and no further communication made.
 - III. It was discussed that there are provisions in the Township Historic Resource Ordinance to cause the owner to make necessary repairs. No interest in pursuing such action at this time.
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- **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.
 - I. Ron McLarnon reported meeting with the owner to discuss his renovation work. Rob stated that the window replacements made did not require any permits. Rob was not permitted to enter the structure, so he had no comment on the interior structural modifications the Historical Commission had been made aware of.

- **2935 Strasburg Road** – the Class II Historic Resource reportedly built in 1796 and known as the Anthony Burton home is part of the Strasburg Road Thematic District (National Register of Historic Places). Recently vacant and listed for sale, the Historical Commission has had concerns relative to deferred maintenance and storage of vehicles at the property.
 - I. New Owner, Daniel Rhodes, appeared before the Historical Commission to discuss his plans to construct a pole barn structure in the property. He presented a plot plan and some sketches indicating where he intends to locate the new structure.
 - II. The HC discussed recommendations made to the previous owner relative to the renovation of the house. Fred Bissinger offered to make available some sketches he had prepared for the previous owner relative to interior renovations.
 - III. The HC stated that the owner should prepare plans and complete an application for a building permit. It was further stated that the Code Enforcement Officer would probably refer the application back to the HC for review and recommendations.

- **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) status has been granted.
 - I. Joe McCormick prepared and submitted a nomination to [Preservation Pennsylvania](#) for consideration of People's Hall to be included in the annual list of the Commonwealth's most endangered historic resources, *Pennsylvania at Risk*. On February 2, 2016, Preservation Pennsylvania announced its list for 2016, and People's Hall was included in the list of eight properties statewide considered at risk. It is hoped that this selection will result in recognition that will enhance opportunities for funding sources necessary to the rehabilitation and repair of this significant local resource.

V. Discussion - New Business

- CCHPN Spring Workshop scheduled for March 12, 2016 – fee for attendance is \$15.00. With the absence of a quorum, no vote could be taken on allocating funds for the workshop.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe McCormick

Joe McCormick

Chairman
East Fallowfield Historical Commission