



East Fallowfield Historical Commission

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2016

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 6:35pm

II. Meeting attendance

- Joe McCormick, Buddy Rhoades, and Lee Schlingman present. Absent: Fred Bissinger, Arthur DeLeo, Garth Monaghan, and Sue Monaghan. **Quorum was not 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. **Work on the bridge restoration is progressing. A Progress/Status report provided by PennDOT was distributed and reviewed.**
 - **Historic Resource Map and Windshield Survey** – modifications to the Windshield Survey are needed.
 - i. **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. **No further update presented.**
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- **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. 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. It was noted that the grass on the property had been cut. It is the understanding of the HC that a citation had been issued to the owner for the grass. No further restoration or renovations to the building have been undertaken, and the HC is increasing concerned with the potential for demolition by neglect, as the gable ends remain open to weather and infestation, and the protective stucco has been removed from the building jeopardizing the mortar beneath.

II. It has been reported that the owner may be deceased. Further HC action on this resource will be deferred until such time as a quorum of the membership is available for comment and vote.

- **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. The Board of Trustees has been reorganized and a non-profit status has been granted allowing solicitation for contributions to repair and renovate and maintain this significant local historic resource. The Trustees will be conducting events to assist in fund-raising and to generate interest in People's Hall. The structure had been recognized as a *Pennsylvania at Risk* property by Preservation Pennsylvania as one of the Commonwealth's most endangered historic resource.

II. An article about the building will be prepared and submitted for inclusion in the Township newsletter.

V. Discussion - New Business

- No new business presented.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe McCormick

Joe McCormick
Chairman
East Fallowfield Historical Commission
