

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 11, 2007**

The East Goshen Township Historical Commission held their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 11, 2007 at 6:30 PM at the East Goshen Township Building. In attendance were: Chair, Linda Gordon, Vice-Chair Kathryn Yahraes, and members Ben Rohrbeck, Monica Close, Sue Ciorletti, Ellen Carmody and Connie Bain. Also in attendance were: Ed Lendradt (Historical Commission Research Volunteer), Gary Althouse (Township Building Inspector), Sue Carty (Planning Commission), Joe McDonough (Board of Supervisors), Ruth Scadding (Park & Rec) and Ginnie Newlin (Conservancy).

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Chairman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PRESENTATION BY SAGE FILM & VIDEO:

Kathryn explained that East Goshen Township is celebrating their 325th anniversary in 2007. Back in November Sage contacted Kathryn and they started looking into how to historically document the Township. Jane Pollini and Deborah Arnold from Sage Film & Video gave a short presentation. Ms. Sage explained that they have been in business for 7 years and in their experience there is great interest in these types of projects. They discussed their two most recent projects. Two years ago they did a full-length documentary for Lansdowne. A full-length documentary runs 45-60 minutes. 1000 people attended the premier and they sold 200 DVD's the first day (1400 to date) at approximately \$20-25/each. Currently they are working with Tredyffrin Township on documenting their 300th anniversary. They are planning an outdoors, community day premier in September.

Following the showing of a brief video segment from the Lansdowne documentary, they pointed out the different presentation possibilities – focusing more on nostalgia as they did for Lansdowne or incorporating history and nostalgia depending on the type of community they are working with.

Linda said East Goshen has a lot of history citing numerous 100+ years old homes and the Battle of the Clouds, yet East Goshen wasn't suburbanized until the 1970's. There's no "main street" so it would be nice to incorporate some of the old history as well as track the development process and population increase from just 3,000 to 18,000+ residents. Joe said a lot of residents tend to focus on the development they live in rather than the township at large. There are only a handful of generational families in the township. This DVD would be a good source of history and give people of sense of community.

Tying sales into community events is a great promotional tool. Sage will help develop an appropriate marketing plan, citing the "entertainment value" as a selling point. They can also do a trailer that can be shown at any public meeting or event, which helps build anticipation.

Depending on length, a 45-60 minute documentary would take a minimum of 6 months and up to 12-18 months to do all proper research and collection of materials. Initially they would need to define the responsibilities of those involved. Lansdowne used one person while Tredyffrin had an executive producer and an historian. It would be a collaborative effort between Sage and East Goshen.

Although there are many factors, this kind of project could cost \$18,000 (15-20 minute documentary) up to \$65,000+ (full-length). They would structure something specific for the East Goshen Township community needs and budget.

Kathryn asked Ms. Pollini to prepare a checklist outlining the steps involved in pre-production, production and post-production stages of the project by January 30th. Ultimately the Historic Commission will ask Sage to return for a presentation at the Board of Supervisors' meeting, which should include ABC's and other township staff. The HC will get a package together for final approval by the Board of Supervisors. It could take 6-8 months for a final decision.

4. ELECTIONS:

Linda made a motion to nominate Kathryn Yahraes as chair of Historical Commission. Monica seconded the motion. No further discussion or public comment was heard. The motion carried unanimously.

Linda nominated Monica Close as Vice-Chair of the Historical Commission. Sue seconded the motion. No further discussion or public comment was heard. The motion carried unanimously.

Kathryn ran the remainder of the meeting. She applauded Linda for doing a great job in helping to raise the standards of the Historical Commission over the past few years. She also thanked Monica for stepping up as Vice-Chair.

5. MINUTES:

Linda made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2007, as written. Ben seconded the motion. No further discussion or public comment was heard. The motion carried unanimously.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Activity Calendar:

- a. Bold items are when the newsletter articles are due.
- b. The EGT Annual Planning Session was changed from January 6th to January 13th at 7:45am. It's a great chance to meet other ABC's in the township and show your support. It's usually over by 10am.
- c. Ginnie said another Chester Creek Planting Day is in the works for April, possibly on Saturday, April 21st (Earth Day).
- d. The Community Yard Sale will not be held in April – only in the Fall this year.
- e. June 7th is the Kickoff for Village Walks & Town Tours. Discussion will continue at the February meeting. These tours are free to the public and take place every Thursday in June/July/August.

2. Other:

- a. Linda acknowledged contributions that Kathy Glass received from Bill Hayward \$500 and \$200 to the Historical Commission and Conservancy Board. They will apply this money to the bench that will be dedicated to former member (members looked at bench in the hallway) Nancy Hayward. The "Save Applebrook" fund has a balance of \$400 and this money could be used to purchase a tree to be planted beside the bench. Hopefully more money will be forthcoming but to date, there is enough to cover the cost of the bench and tree.
- b. Ginnie said she heard Shirley Fox on a radio program calling Applebrook and East Goshen Township "neighbors from hell" saying her business has been destroyed, horses and family injured. This stemmed from the golf balls coming through the netting near the range.
- c. Kathryn distributed copies of the updated contact sheets for all the HC members.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Volunteers Update – Kathryn has drafted a letter to send to those interested in volunteering from names gathered from the Plank House and Blacksmith Shop’s sign-in sheets. She will e-mail the residents of upcoming events if email addresses were provided. Recruitment for judges continues for National History Day at Immaculate College on March 10, 2007. On that day, Historical Commission members can choose to be a judge for the Historical Competition or to attend the Chester County Historic Preservation Network Conference on Historic Resource Impact Studies.
- B. Graduation Project – Linda has not made progress and would like this to be re-assigned to another member. Sarah Cass had volunteered to help with this and Kathryn will contact her to see if she is still interested in serving as a liaison to the school district. Curriculum might be in place for the spring but hopefully the Historical Commission will be able to be ready for September or next year.
- C. Images of America Book – Linda said 240 pictures need to be collected. They are going through a storage cabinet in the basement and asking some residents for pictures.
- D. Living History Project – Linda proposed that “living” be changed to “oral” and everyone agreed. She said Marge Wolf is helping to re-organize the property files so they are easier to go through and find things. Linda asked Rick Smith about designating an office space for the HC to use.
- E. National History Day Judging – Ellen has recruited two more volunteers. She also said Brandywine will not be there but Ft. Mifflin, Paoli Battlefield, Ft. Mercer Noah Lewis and Historic Sugartown are expected to do displays.
- F. GIS Project – This will be removed from the agenda but will be kept as a goal and on-going project. Not only do historical resources need to be identified, but also a more complete and lengthy inventory and information on all of the houses and structures need to be done. This documentation will be of help in saving houses and protect them from outside influences such as roads coming too close. This will take multiple years to complete.
- G. Property Research – Ed reported on his research conducted at 1662 East Boot Road, 1705/1707 Paoli Pike, and 1213/1220 Young’s Lane. He did several in pairs when the house and barn were on the same property. Six others are underway. He needs to see a picture of 1614 E. Strasburg Road. Monica will coordinate with Ed.

H. OTHER OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Regional Historical Meeting – is set for January 24th. This will be the 2nd full meeting. They plan to meet at least quarterly.
- b. Joint Project with Immaculata History Students for 1777 Campaign --Ben is working with Charles Reese who is very enthusiastic. He is working on the preposition of how the battle would have ensued without the rain. Ellen said Immaculata has paintings, a few things in their archives and even a song (which she will try to get a copy of the words). Ben believes this will benefit Immaculata upon its completion.
- c. Attendance – Ben said barring special events, attendances at historical resources are low across the region. Excluding special events there have been 4000 visitors recorded at Brandywine during the year. There were approximately 250 visitors recorded at the Plank House and Blacksmith Shop on weekends, plus an additional 500. He thinks EGT is doing pretty well overall. Ellen said Delaware County Historical Society issued a “Passport for History” which encourages kids to visit historical sites and thinks Chester County would great benefit from a similar program. Members agreed. Kathryn said Jill Dixon, Program Director at the Historical Society, is also very interested. The program will be discussed at the regional meeting on January 24.
- d. Memorial Tree and Bench for Nancy Hayward – Ginnie said an American Elm, a new variety that was strongly recommended by the nurseries, could be planted beside the

Hayward bench. The American Elm is beautiful, historical, would be good to re-establish in the area and would be graceful and compliment the bench nicely. Ginnie agreed to talk to area nurseries to establish the size and cost of the tree available to purchase and will report back at the February meeting. Along with the bench and tree and dedication, Kathryn recommended getting some press coverage, inviting the family, taking photos and including info the newsletter. It would also be a good opportunity to make residents aware of the opportunity to make these types of contributions in the Township. Joe said it would take careful planning as the HC should understand the full impact. Kathryn said it should be limited to trees/benches and would need to through committee. Ginnie suggested requiring those who make contributions to dedicate funds for its maintenance.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Budget – Kathryn said the budget would be available at the next meeting; she is working with Kathy Glass to have a monthly accounting.
- B. Newsletter Schedule – Kathryn distributed newsletter schedule and ideas. There are four newsletters per year and all members contribute. Ben suggested Rocky Hill Historic District and will write for the August 10th deadline (October newsletter). Linda suggested doing a piece on the old “Sky Haven Airport” at Highland & Taylor Road. Connie will research and prepare for the May 11th deadline (July newsletter). The “We Are the HC” will be moved to the August 10th deadline (October newsletter). Kathryn said there will be a review/preview of Living History Day in the July newsletter and asked Sue to come up with some authentic recipes to include as well (May 11th deadline). Ellen will look into the Battle of the Clouds for the November 9th deadline (January newsletter). Monica will do an article for the August or November deadlines (perhaps a comparison to the conveniences of living today).
- C. Liaison Assignments – Ellen will stay with the MA. Linda will continue with the BOS, Ben will continue with the Park & Rec; Monica will continue with the PC. Connie will pick up the Conservancy Board and Sue will double up on Park & Rec. Kathryn will continue to sub and double up on the PC and BOS meetings as needed.
- D. Goals 2006 – The Commission reviewed the Goals & Objectives for 2006.
 - a. Immediate Goals: They completed 2 out of 5 immediate goals, with the updated Historical Preservation Ordinance passing on 10/17/06. The GIS project, development of a brochure and historical section on the township website will be worked on in 2007.
 - b. Long-Term Goals – The name of the Living History Program is changed to Oral History Program. Three were done in 2006. They do have some handouts on the recorded history of the Township and it will be included on the web when ready. The National Registry Application for the Rocky Hill Historic District will need to be re-submitted because too long of a time period has passed since its original submission. The Graduation Project, plaques and 10-year action plan will continue to be developed in 2007.
 - c. On-Going Goals: Two-thirds of the Chain of Title research on the houses of the Inventory of Historical Resources is done. Volunteerism and community events will continue to be promoted. 2006 newsletter articles were well received. Media coverage of historic activities needs to be improved. The Historic Commission continued work with the ABC’s, CCHS and CCHPN is on track. Monica helped to establish the state commitment for Adopt a Highway and the signs are now up.
- E. Goals 2007 – It was agreed to change “create an awareness” to “maintain an awareness” of the roles, responsibilities, duties and contributions of the Historical Commission. Members agreed to move this item from “immediate goals” to on going. Linda asked about the sub-station’s mutilated plantings @ Rt. 352. Joe said new Homeland Security regulations restrict dense brush by power stations as it could be used as a hiding place and PECO removed it. Ginnie was asked

to have the Conservancy Board come up with a recommendation for replacement plantings that aren't dense or high and would look nicer. Greg Kerry is the PECO contact (he also serves as a Honeybrook Twp. Supervisor).

9. SUB-DIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT

- A. Hansen Property, 56 Line Road – Linda wrote a letter on December 15th to the PC & BOS. The Planning Commission has given a recommendation to support the variance. Mark Gordon asked the HC to write an updated letter.
- B. Willis Property, 1670 E. Boot Road – This property is next to Clocktower and Joe Willis has submitted a 2-lot sub-division application. Due to its close proximity to a historical house, they will need to do a Historic Resource Impact Study. Bob Wise will probably work with the applicant.
- C. Perakis – G & D Builders have filed for bankruptcy. Another builder can develop the property under the currently approved building plan and permit so long as it does not change or expire. A permit is required. G & D could have already paid Perakis for the plan but the outcome is unclear. Joe said the township may become party to the bankruptcy and they have asked the solicitor for his opinion in this regard.

10. LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Board of Supervisors – Joe said the main issue facing the board is the sewerage of Brookmont/Charter Chase and the cost of upgrading the Ridley Creek plant.
- B. Conservancy Board – Ginnie said Joe Willis did not properly mark the trees on his submission and will have to re-do. The Conservancy Boards believe the large barn on the Harlan property should be removed.
- C. Park & Recreation – Ben said programs are moving along, the trip to New York City was successful and they are looking for a new Assistant Director of Summer Recreation. They also discussed adding a “dog run” which sparked talk about the lack of clean up by pet owners by the Plank house. They also discussed safety concerns at the Blacksmith Shop regarding the meeting room and whether they should ban meetings there all together. Joe said the Township maintains the land and the Board of Supervisors support the Historical Commission’s management of activities at this location. Park & Rec. does not have any authority and permits are not required. It is primarily used for Township meetings.
- D. Planning Commission – Art Polishuk resigned on January 8. There is now an opening on the board. Megann Hedgecock has been appointed to fill Nick Battista’s vacant spot. Peter Mylonas is continuing as chair. Sue Carty is continuing as Vice-Chair.
- E. Municipal Authority – Ellen reported that the Municipal Authority met 12 of their 15 goals for 2006. Discussion continued about Brookmont, Charter Chase, Ridley Creek and their options. Joe said meetings have been scheduled for January 29th & 30th for the MA to meet with Brookmont and Charter Chase to discuss sewerage these areas and get feedback.

11. CORRESPONDENCE
NONE

12. PUBLIC COMMENT
NONE

13. ADJOURNMENT
Linda made a motion to adjourn. Connie seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or public comment. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: _____
Tracie Hill, Recording Secretary