

EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 12, 2007

The East Goshen Township Historical Commission held their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 12, 2007 at 7:00 PM at the East Goshen Township Building. In attendance were: Chair Kathryn Yahraes, Vice Chair Monica Close and members Sue Ciorletti, Ellen Carmody, Connie Bain, Linda Gordon and Ben Rohrbeck. Also in attendance were: Ed Lendradt (Historical Commission Research Volunteer), Gary Althouse (Township Building Inspector), Phyllis Marron (Park & Recreation Board) and Peter Mylonas (Planning Commission).

B. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. MINUTES

Ben moved to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2007 workshop as corrected. Monica seconded the motion. No public comment or further discussion was heard. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention by Linda (since she did not attend the meeting).

Connie moved to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2007 meeting as corrected. Monica seconded the motion. No public comment or further discussion was heard. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention by Linda (since she did not attend the meeting).

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Activity Calendar –

1. Orientation at the Plank House on 4/21/07 has been changed to 1pm.
2. The Regional Historical Meeting on 4/25 will be held at the Oakbourne Mansion in Westtown. Linda will be absent.
3. The CCHPN Meeting & Picnic has been scheduled for 6/27 in Easttown Twp. Shuttles will be used to go back and forth to Waterloo Mills.
4. The CCHPN's 1st fall lecture on Demolition Permits & Neglect will be held on 9/20 in East Vincent.
5. The CCHPN's 2nd fall lecture on Sears Roebuck Houses will be held on 11/29 in East Bradford.
6. The Annual CCHPN Workshop has been planned for 3/8/08.
7. The National Historical Day Competition is tentatively scheduled for 4/5/08.

B. Other:

1. Nancy Diversa sent information from the Colonial Plantation in Ridley Creek that they are looking for teachers for school-age children a couple days a week.
2. Ginnie Newlin wanted to remind everyone that in celebration of Earth Day they are meeting at the Chester Creek Preserve on Reservoir Road on Sat. 4/21 at 9am to plant trees. All are welcome but please bring your own supplies.

F. PRESENTATIONS

Peter Mylonas, Chairman of the Planning Commission, gave an overview of current applications before the Planning Commission as well as an explanation of some terminology.

- A. Currently there are two applications before the Planning Commission that he would refer to:
 - a. Keystone Foods is asking for conditional use which is when an applicant asks for the right to do something in a particular zoning area -- in this case, run a commercial test kitchen for their research and development facility. If their use conforms to the use allowed in the zoning area, then they have the "use by right." The Board of Supervisors reserves the right to put conditions on any use.
 - b. Angelini submitted a sketch plan for a proposed sub-division on Cornwallis Dr. The Planning Commission looks at the plan and gives recommendations to the Board of Supervisors with reasonable restrictions. A flag lot ends up looking like an "L" so that it maintains road-frontage. The Planning Commission is always careful not to set precedence for future development.
- B. A sub-division is when you separate a large lot into 1-acre+ lots including common areas, roads, etc. Land development is when the land is already divided and you want to build on it. During S/D, they take into consideration traffic, water run-off, sewer, preserving trees and/or historical buildings (within 500 ft), driveways, aesthetics and overall flow of the plan. The applicant may also go before the other commissions for recommendations as needed (Conservancy, Historical, etc.).
- C. The Planning Commission also addresses variance requests, when an applicant asks for exceptions to the zoning rules. The applicant must establish why they need the variance in meeting certain criteria (ie. Physical features of the lot). Economic hardship and self-created hardships are never legitimate reasons for a variance. Peter explained that "*diminimus*" means "minor or insignificant." If an applicant's request had a small impact, the Planning Commission might deem it *diminimus* but there is no quantitative measurement. The Planning Commission is considered "conservative."
- D. Peter reviewed the Planning Commission's 2007 Goals as outlined in the Township's spring newsletter. Under Comprehensive Action Items, A-E & G are applied to each application, whereas F & H-K are used to review and update ordinances. These are all part of the 10-year Plan that encompasses the Township's goals/concepts as a whole.

Kathryn said the CCHPN Workshop in March focused on Preservation of Historical Resources and was very supportive of working with the Planning Commissions. The Network may consider doing a short power-point presentation for the Planning Commissions in the County and/or Boards of Supervisors.

G. LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Planning Commission – Monica reported that the Angelini application is under review. Land development applications for Willis and Falcone continue. An email was sent.
- B. Board of Supervisors – Linda reported that the board members are going to Hershey for a PSAT's Conference and to do some long-range planning May 23 & 24.
- C. Conservancy Board – Connie reported that the YMCA tree mistake sparked a discussion about how to handle penalties – "inch per inch" or "tree for tree." The YMCA will plant over 100 trees, either on-site or in the township. The Conservancy Board will make location recommendations when the time comes. Trees come with an 18-month guarantee. Connie also reported that Mill Creek and Comcast continue discussions about adequate screening (the 1991 landscape plan was actually more than originally required, but by today's standards, it is deficient).
- D. Park & Rec. – Ben asked if the unsifted soil at Applebrook should be used as a kid's activity during Living History Day in June. The last time they sifted for artifacts was 3 years ago. Due to volunteer constraints, members agree to hold this for another time. Ben also reported that all the coloring books are gone. Members agreed to reprint the current book for continued distribution at the Plank House but Ben & Sue will work together to develop a smaller, kid-friendly book for distribution during Easter next

year. Members agreed to remove the names of all the Historical Commission members from the inside cover. Linda moved to authorize the ordering of 500 coloring books, not to exceed \$500. Ben seconded the motion. No further discussion or public comment was heard. The motion passed unanimously.

- E. Municipal Authority – Kathryn reported for Ellen that meetings with the Brookmont and Charter Chase neighborhoods about sewerage are scheduled for 4/25 and 4/26. Surveys were returned with a 30-40% approval rating. State mandates at Lochwood may force the shut down of that facility.

H. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Sage Film & Video Project –Jane Pollini sent more specific information about the project and Kathryn has the 4-minute trailer from Tredyffrin Township that can be reviewed at the May meeting on the laptop. Obvious concerns are time, energy and money needed to do the project. Ben is still concerned that it will end up being just a historical presentation and won't appeal to the average resident who identifies themselves more to West Chester as a whole rather than East Goshen Twp. specifically. Linda agrees that the Oral History and Images of America projects are the priority at the moment and they should revisit this idea in a few years. Kathryn believes it is a worthwhile project but others have concerns. Cons for the project include: lack of main street, mostly farmland prior to 1960's, not enough nostalgia, and marketability appeal. Members agree that they need more time and research before proceeding. Joe suggested tying the project into the 200-year Anniversary of the founding of the Township in 2017.
- B. Living History Day – discussions will be held until May. Cheryl Snyder, Historical Sugartown Coordinator, will work on referrals both ways. Congressman Joe Sestack asked to be kept abreast of township activities. Ben said they would use the spare Dutch oven for the candle-dipping project (a fire pit will be dug in the grass).
- C. Chester County Day (Oct. 6)
- D. Town Tours & Village Walks (July 19) – Kathryn said they have been confirmed for the July 19th date. Although this was their 3rd choice, it will give them more time between Living History Day and the Tour and allow them to advertise in the next newsletter.
- E. Images of America Book – Linda has looked through all the photos at the Chester County Historical Society and found some great ones, dating back as far as 1889. The cost for 8x10 digital glossy prints is \$10/each. Linda moved that the Historical Commission authorize Linda to order up to \$700 worth of photos from the Chester County Historical Society for inclusion in the Images of America Book. Ben seconded the motion. DVD submission is acceptable to the Images of America. Ben pointed out that 8x10's are twice as costly from Delaware County. Linda said there are pictures of the Dutt's Mill, General Green Hotel, Hershey's Falls, 352 South (when it was a dirt road), a house fire and the Three Tunn Tavern. Linda will put a list together for the members when they are ready. Linda continues to go through the township files and is thinking about doing a "before/after" series. Kathryn asked Linda to check into billing options. No further discussion or public comment was heard. The motion passed unanimously. Linda has many pictures of the Meeting House already but continues to look for pictures of old schools, classrooms, farms, churches, and the Goshen Fair. Kathryn said old documents are also good. Ben recommended contacting the Hicks family. Framed pictures would have to be removed for scanning purposes and all pictures would be returned ASAP.
- F. Oral History Project – The Commission ranked the people in the project during the workshop last month. Linda will contact the high priority people including the Hicks, Mae Schmitt, Joan Miller, and Arlene Davis. Although Linda like the Malvern Contest idea, she thought they should stick to calling people at this point.

- G. Volunteer Update – Kathryn continues to contact residents who inquire about volunteering by telephone.
- H. Property Research – Ed Lendrat completed research on 336, 338, 600, 723, 724, 734 and 1152 North Chester Road, along with 1422 & 1615 Paoli Pike, 208 Westtown Way and 1331 E. Strasburg Road. He will submit some articles about Goshen life to Diane for consideration as “fillers” in the newsletter this year. Ed will research the picture received of 151 Westtown Way and whether or not this is East Goshen property. He will also verify the Fedor House (1515 Manley Road) information that was researched earlier by Nancy Davearsa. Ed is starting over on all the properties to establish construction dates.
- I. Other Old Business
 - i. National History Day Judging – Kathryn said the organizers thought it was a great day and Carol Grigson expressed her appreciation for the great showing that EGT made.. The reception is this Saturday.
 - ii. CCHPN Annual Workshop on March 10 – 42 people were in attendance. Kathryn reported that they are looking into an evening Power Point presentation minus the “hands on portion” of the workshop. The slide presentation will be put on the network web site.
 - iii. Graduation Project – will be worked on this summer.
 - iv. Joint Project with Immaculata History Students for 1777 Campaign – Kathryn reported for Ellen that they are pleased with the student progress so far.
 - v. Goshen Fair – Kathryn will give an update at the May meeting.

I. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Expenses/Invoices –
 - i. Ben moved that the Historical Commission approve the purchase of 125 coloring books for distribution at the Easter Egg Hunt for \$175. Linda seconded the motion. It was agreed that next year the books should be half-size and better geared to the very young children. No further discussion or public comment was heard. The motion passed unanimously.
 - ii. Linda moved that the Historical Commission approve the purchase of 1000 brochures for the Plank House at a cost of \$198. Ben seconded the motion. It was agreed that the Milltown-Hickman Plank House panel be moved to the top of the page. No further discussion or public comment was heard. The motion passed unanimously.
 - iii. Normally the order of 500 copies of the Blacksmith Shop brochures is \$63. Linda moved that the Historical Commission approve the purchase of 1000 brochures for the Blacksmith Shop at a cost not to exceed \$126. Monica seconded the motion. No further discussion or public comment was heard. The motion passed unanimously.
 - iv. Plaque for Nancy’s Bench – Linda said if they used a plastic plaque it wouldn’t rust or tarnish. Monica said they do have plastic ones that look like metal. Kathryn will look into cost and options. Linda will work on the wording.
- B. Grant Writing – Ben, Kathryn and Linda met April 11 with Rick Smith & Thom Clapper along with the grant writer. It was a good meeting. Diana Garaitonandia is a grant writer for the Charter School and will help EGT put together grants for a building to house the Conestoga wagon and other wagons/sleighs as they are procured. They have preliminary information but will gather more in the next 2-3 weeks. Getting funds from foundations is often easier and once they have the grant letter and supporting evidence, it can easily be modified as they go from one foundation to the next. However foundations only give to non-profit organizations and

they need to find a local 501.C.3 that will be responsible for submitting the application on their behalf. Rick suggested re-activating the Friends of Goshenville which was terminated 7 years ago but it's not a possibility. It is a very complicated process. One option is that the Township form an outside non-profit organization that could benefit all the ABC's but they would need to form an executive board to oversee the organization as well as a mission statement. Linda said municipalities normally apply for state/federal funding. Tom is looking into collaborating with a local school. Ben said the only place for the storage house is on the east side of the Plank House along E. Boot Road so it doesn't fall within the 100 yr. floodplain. Kathryn also said they will need a budget to cover a concrete slab, the building itself, inside plaques and outside signage, displays and educational materials. They will need a rendering when the time comes.

- C. Other – Ben talked to Mark Miller (Public Works) about stuccoing the interior of the Blacksmith Shop this month. Kathryn said the weather has been prohibiting progress of the new bathrooms in the park and that project needs to be completed before moving on to the Blacksmith shop project. They may not get started until after their opening in May. Supplies will need to be removed as needed for Living History Day.

J. SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT

- A. Willis Track subdivision (East Boot Road) – will discuss next month.
- B. James Cogill Barn (1523 B Richard Dr) – no new information.
- C. Hansen Property (Sorrell Hill) – no new information.
- D. Perakis Property – they have asked for an extension. The bankruptcy is up in the air.
- E. Swiss Farms – construction is underway.
- F. Angelini (Cornwallis) – new application
- G. Keystone – new application

K. CORRESPONDENCE

Kathryn has a copy of the first issue of the East Goshen Newsletter dating back to Winter 1989. Jack also found a Chester County Sanitation Project dating back to 1972. Linda will add them to the files.

L. PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

M. ADJOURNMENT

Linda made a motion to adjourn. Sue seconded the motion. No public comment. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:50pm.

Respectfully submitted by: _____
Tracie Hill, Recording Secretary