

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP**  
**HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**AUGUST 15, 2007**

The East Goshen Township Historical Commission held their regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, August 15, 2007 at 7:00 PM at the East Goshen Township Building. In attendance were: Chair Kathryn Yahraes, Vice Chair Monica Close and members Linda Gordon, Connie Bain, Ellen Carmody and Ben Rohrbeck. Also in attendance were: Gary Althouse (Township Building Inspector), Ed Lendrat, Ruth Scadding (Park & Recreation Board) and Joe McDonough (Board of Supervisors).

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05PM and announced that Sue Ciorletti was an excused absence for the meeting and Ellen Carmody would be arriving about 45 minutes late. She also introduced Jim Webb, resident of East Goshen Twp., who specializes in historical drawings and was also in attendance.

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Chairman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. MINUTES**

Linda moved to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2007 meeting as corrected. Ben seconded the motion. No public comment or further discussion was heard. The motion passed unanimously.

**D. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A. Activity Calendar Update –

1. The Fall Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up is scheduled for Sat., 9/22; raindate 9/29.
2. The PHMC Workshop in Chadds Ford is scheduled for Tues., Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>.
3. David McCollough will lecture at Immaculata on Friday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>.
4. The Paoli Battlefield Illumination will be at 7pm on Sat., Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>.

B. Announcements –

1. Michele LaFever will be speaking at the PHMC Workshop in Chadds Ford. Two BOS members (Carmen Battavio and Marty Shane) and Kathryn plan to attend. They plan to leave from the Township building at 6 pm on 9/25. Anyone else interested in attending should make their own reservation and let Kathryn know if they will be going in the Township vehicle,
2. The CCHPN lecture on Demolition may be rescheduled because some panel members may not be able to attend. If the lecture is held, they will be leaving by 6:30pm from the Township building in order to get to East Vincent by 7:30pm.
3. There are already 400 seats reserved for the Evening with David McCullough on Friday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>. Any members interested in attending should mail in their registration form as soon as possible. He will be doing book signing at the event.
4. The History Day Competition is tentatively scheduled for 3/15/08 at Immaculata.

**E. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Kathryn reported that approximately 162 people attended the Town Tour & Village Walk in Historic Goshenville on July 19<sup>th</sup>. She expressed her appreciation to the HC members and all the volunteers for their extensive preparations, help and initiative prior to and during the event. Ben said adding “free admission” to the sign for the Blacksmith Shop and Plank House might encourage spontaneous visits. Kathryn thanked Ellen for arranging the tour of 1506 East Grand Oak and will talk with her about rescheduling for those who where unable to attend. East Goshen did not have a booth at the Goshen Fair this year but Kathryn and Linda helped out on Tuesday; Kathryn thanked Linda.

**F. SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT**

55 Gary Althouse (*Township Building Inspector*) – reported that they are still waiting for  
56 confirmation of the Agreement of Sale for a portion of the easement so the Willis Tract Sub-  
57 division on East Boot Road is temporarily on hold. The Hansen property is on track, having  
58 received all its approvals except one; he does not know when they will break ground. The Perakis  
59 property has an extension until 11/13. Swiss Farms is now open.  
60

#### 61 G. LIAISON REPORTS

- 62 A. Kathryn commended everyone for submitting such thorough liaison reports via email.
- 63 B. Joe McDonough asked if the grant writer for the storage shed for the Conestoga wagon  
64 had all the information they needed because nothing seemed to be happening. Kathryn  
65 will call her.
- 66 C. Conservancy Board and the Planning Commission – Connie reported that Comcast will  
67 furnish proper screening on their property from the Mill Creek neighbors; they will not  
68 appeal the denial of the Curative Amendment decision, however Joe will confirm. The  
69 township will sponsor a tree sale on 10/14 from 9am – 1pm, featuring a large variety of  
70 species. CTDI is looking for a variance but the PC denied their request.
- 71 D. Park & Recreation Committee – Ruth commended Ben for his great email summary of  
72 their meeting. The idea of the Veteran’s Memorial was received favorably but no  
73 decisions were made; ground breaking would be in the spring 2008 at the earliest. Paving  
74 of the unconnected trail in Applebrook has not been decided. Ginny discussed porous vs.  
75 non-porous pavers but Joe said paving would not be considered until the trail is connected.  
76

#### 77 H. OLD BUSINESS

- 78 A. Town Tours & Village Walks Evaluation
  - 79 1. Members concurred that visitors really enjoyed the evening and refreshments. Ed Lendrat  
80 said the Bible Church was described as a “house-school-church” but in fact it was never a  
81 house. Members agreed that having a guide at each location worked well. Getting inside  
82 the Grange and the Meeting House might be possible next time.
  - 83 2. Aside from the weather, Kathryn asked what if anything members would like to see  
84 changed for next time, ie. When to participate again and if they should consider another  
85 location besides the Village of Goshenville. Linda’s only suggestion was limiting these  
86 large-scale events to two per year in the future. Ben suggested holding low-impact events  
87 to attract people to come back such as a book signing. His experience is that most  
88 historical sites do monthly or bi-monthly events. Linda said constraints on volunteers  
89 would make that too difficult and suggested changing their traditional Living History Day  
90 in September. Members were asked to consider low-impact ideas for discussion in  
91 September. Joe cautioned members against duplicating efforts by other area historical  
92 sites.
  - 93 3. Linda asked if any member was interested in handling publicity – that is distributing  
94 information to the local newspapers about their events/activities. A list of historical places  
95 is listed in the Chester County Living section of the Daily Local News. Monica will look  
96 into whom to contact at the DLN, Inquirer, and Town & Country. Kathryn can give the  
97 contact information to Monica – Plyllis Rowen is the editor of the DLN’s Chester County  
98 Living insert.
- 99 B. Living History Day – is scheduled for 9/15.
  - 100 1. Ben will conduct the 1 hr. Battle of Goshen Talk at 12noon and 2pm. Ben will float  
101 between the wagon and the Wheelright stuff in the Blacksmith Shop between talks.  
102 Having another volunteer present would be a good idea as well.
  - 103 2. Ben’s family will do candles and can help sell books/mugs.
  - 104 3. Members agree to hold the archeological dig for another event.
  - 105 4. Bob Klinger will do the Blacksmithing.
  - 106 5. Falcones will do the ink-making and goose quill pen writing again.
  - 107 6. Letters are going out to all volunteers. Kathryn will make up a schedule of the volunteers.  
108 Ellen will contact the Lace Ladies and she will help in the Blacksmith Shop; she’s

- 109 available all day. Monica is unable to commit to the date at this time. Ed Lendrat is unable  
110 to attend due to a prior commitment but could help on 10/6 for Chester County Day.  
111 7. Linda said she was fine to handle the cooking in the kitchen but needs three other people  
112 inside the house to discuss each room as people move through; she will call around for  
113 help. Ruth will email the P&R members for volunteers. They will run two shifts between  
114 11am-4pm.  
115 8. The wagon will be moved out and two small tents will be used.  
116 9. Charlie Lang had asked if the actors, especially those coming from NJ, could be  
117 reimbursed. Linda said giving a contribution of \$50-75 / re-enactor to the regiment has  
118 been done in the past. Members agreed that this was in the budget and appropriate.

119 C. Project Updates

- 120 1. Linda continues to go through the filing cabinets and found some interesting photos  
121 including the 1614 Beaumont house and panoramic farm views, along with numerous  
122 original photos from the 1928 construction of the reservoir and West Chester Waterworks  
123 building. About 80 photos have been scanned into the computer. The goal is to have the  
124 pictures ready to go to the publisher by next summer. Linda will work on getting a list of  
125 the photos scanned to date so members can review what they have any make any  
126 suggestions for areas of need. Linda & Ellen will meet to discuss the DeReamer's photos  
127 in glass frames.  
128 2. Kings Highway Signs – Ben said Mark Miller said it's okay to place the signs on existing  
129 posts so long as they do not obstruct traffic. Wording on the sign will read "Original road  
130 bed of the Kings Highway, circa 1699." Linda moved that the Historical Commission  
131 authorize Kathryn to order the two Kings Highway signs for \$650, and for Mark to order  
132 two posts not to exceed \$50/post. Connie seconded the motion. Since the BOS declined  
133 the offer of a donation for the piece of original roadbed that Ben has, he offered it to  
134 PHMC but so far has not received a response. No further discussion or comment was  
135 heard. The motion passed unanimously.  
136 3. Ben found a metal supplier who agreed to order 3/8" and 1/2" round bars that will be cut  
137 to 8' lengths.  
138 4. Property Research Update – Ed Lendrat distributed date of construction information for  
139 the following properties: 732 N. Chester Rd., 194 Line Rd., 1040 King Rd., 1422 Paoli  
140 Pk., 902 N. Chester Rd., 401 Ellis Ln., 1476 Morstein Rd., 301 Reservoir Rd., 1615 E.  
141 Boot Rd., 1344 W. Chester Pk., 1725 Towne Drive, 916 N. Chester Rd., 1339 W. Chester  
142 Pk., 1785 E. Strasburg Rd., 810 N. Chester Rd., 814 N. Chester Rd., 1532 E. Strasburg  
143 Rd., 1537 E. Strasburg Rd., 1541 E. Strasburg Rd., 1540 E. Strasburg Rd., 1601 E.  
144 Strasburg Rd., 1603 E. Strasburg Rd., 1605 E. Strasburg Rd., 1607 E. Strasburg Rd., 1610  
145 E. Strasburg Rd., 1614 E. Strasburg Rd., 336 N. Chester Rd., 338 N. Chester Rd., and 405  
146 N. Chester Rd. Ed reserves the right to revise and correct date of construction information.  
147 Ed found he DeReimer's house in a 2000 calendar that is quoted as "formerly the  
148 Theophilus Miller house" but he can't find any information on this family. Kathryn  
149 suggested looking in the "People file" at the CCHS. CCHS holds a workshop in the spring  
150 on how to use their files and do research.

151 D. Other

- 152 1. Kathryn thanked Monica for the photos of the Blacksmith Shop items which are numbered  
153 with descriptions. They will be filed and copies put on disk. They were passed around for  
154 members to review. Ben said the wagon, drill press and some new tools also need to be  
155 done.  
156 2. Ben said Sue has been arranging with Channel 20 in Hershey's Mill to do a piece on the  
157 Blacksmith Shop (separate from the Battle of the Clouds talk) and wanted to get a copy of  
158 the taping. Joe said they usually air a piece two months after it is recorded and the station  
159 should provide a complimentary copy.  
160 3. The last Town & Tour will take place in S. Coventry Twp. next week. Historic Yellow  
161 Springs stationary guides spoke in the 1<sup>st</sup> person. Additional research and outgoing  
162 volunteers would be needed for this kind of roll-playing. Kathryn distributed a keepsake

map from the E. Natmeal Town Tour that EGT could consider adapting for their own uses.

## I. NEW BUSINESS

A. Expenses – Kathryn said all expenses have been submitted for reimbursement.

B. Historical Resources Inventory –

Linda explained that the owners of 938 Cornwallis Drive were seeking a sub-division of their 4-acre property into two lots, wanting to leave the original house intact while two new houses were constructed before demolishing the original. When they were before the BOS, it was discovered that the original home is 140 years old, although this was never brought up to the PC. Members agreed that the original part of the house was probably in the rear of the house but according to the 1981 Chester County survey it is not clearly identifiable. Members looked over to the proximity map and agreed that it was unclear.

Joe suggesting contacting the homeowner directly and asking for information on the history of the home and/or a tour. Members discussed whether this house should be added to the Historical Resources Inventory list. In order to add the house to the list, they would need to hold a public hearing and the BOS would need to add it. Ellen and Linda agree that the original house has been changed so much that it probably is not worth pursuing. Kathryn asked Ed to do a chain of title and get her the information ASAP. Monica will look through the Recorder of Deeds.

Kathryn said this raises questions about other homes that should be considered for addition to the Inventory list, including: 200 E. Dutts Mill Way, 1601 E. Glenmont Ln., 1342 Hollyberry Ln., and the Sullivan House. When the ordinance originally passed, some homeowners opted not to participate. Linda suggested a fall/winter drive around the township to try to identify homes. Gary suggested looking at their aerial photo from March 2007. Ellen will look up other properties via the MLS.

C. Goal Review – Members will review their 2007 goals and were asked to think about 2008 ideas that can be discussed at their September meeting.

D. Oxford Property – Fedor House

1. Members reviewed the sketch plans provided for the proposed addition to the Fedor House by Oxford Properties. Linda asked about the parking spaces but Joe said the spaces are only proposed at this point and the HC should focus on their recommendations for the addition itself.
2. Members agree that the addition looked good except for the vinyl siding. Ellen said other material could be used that was more in keeping with the nature of the house. Linda said they should be realistic and vinyl siding is low maintenance and probably the material of choice. Members agree that a natural looking vinyl siding in a brownish color would be preferred.
3. Members are okay with the vent in the gable.
4. Members agreed that windows “strongly resemble” the existing windows would be preferred.
5. Gary said the handrail needs to meet building code but they could recommend color and/or material; regardless a metal handicap railing is required. Members agreed that the railing should be in keeping with the time period of the house and probably should not be white.
6. Kathryn said members raised repeated concerns to the township that the house was facing the wrong direction when it was being moved and assurances were given that it would be turned before it was placed in its final position, but it never was; they are very disappointed.

J. PRESENTATION – “How to Read a Developer’s Plan” by Gary Althouse was postponed.

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**K. CORRESPONDENCE**

NONE

**L. PUBLIC COMMENT**

NONE

**M. ADJOURNMENT**

Linda made a motion to adjourn. Monica seconded the motion. No public comment. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracie Hill, Recording Secretary