

EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 8, 2007

The East Goshen Township Historical Commission held their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, November 8, 2007 at 7:00 PM at the East Goshen Township Building. In attendance were: Chair Kathryn Yahraes, and members Ellen Carmody Sue Ciorletti, Monica Close, Connie Bain and Ben Rohrbeck. Excused absences: Linda Gordon. Also in attendance were: Gary Althouse (Township Building Inspector), and Dolores Higgins.

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. MINUTES

Ben moved to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2007 meeting as written. Sue seconded the motion. No public comment or further discussion was heard. The motion passed unanimously with two abstentions by Monica Close and Connie Bain since they did not attend the meeting.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Activity Calendar Update – the Township Holiday party is scheduled for 12/7 from 5:30-8:30pm. A volunteer appreciation party at Linda Gordon's house has been scheduled for 12/9 from 5-7pm for all those who helped during Town Tours & Village Walks, Chester County Day and Living History Days this year. The Candlelight Tour at Brandywine Battlefield is scheduled for 12/8 from 3-7pm.
- B. Announcements – The National History Day Competition at Immaculata College has been scheduled for 3/15/08. Training Days will be at CCHS at 10am on 2/16/08 for returning judges/team captains, and 2/23/08 for new judges/team captains. The CCHPN (Chester County Historic Preservation Network) Workshop has been scheduled at the Brandywine River Museum on 3/8/08 from 8am – 1pm; the topic is demolition. A complete 2008 calendar will be available next month.

E. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Kathryn recapped the volunteer appreciation awards presented at the October meeting. She announced that the Byers variance request had been approved; Byers has invited the HC to take pictures after construction is complete. A letter was received from the Chairman of Chester County Day Committee thanking East Goshen for their participation and additional assistance.

F. SUB-DIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT

- A. Willis Tract (East Boot Road) – the parties cannot come to an agreement on the easement so the applicant will have to go back to their original plans.
- B. Hansen Property (Sorrell Hill) – this cluster development approved by the PC has prompted an ordinance change to allow for pools in closer proximity. The PC discussed the issue but tabled it for a later date. Gary said pre-planning for stormwater management is needed to allow for more impervious coverage; at this time it is unclear what the builder intends to do. The HC agree that pools are unnecessary in this development and are concerned about other potential changes including maintaining required distances from historical structures on the parcel.
- C. Perakis Property – the current deadline is 11/11/07. Gary said a 30-day extension was granted. There are only a couple of more issues pending. Sixteen carriage homes are planned for this site.

- D. Mumford – this conditional use application for an in-home hair salon in Hershey’s Mill Estates was approved but caused a lot of controversy among the neighbors who were concerned about safety and property values.

G. LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Planning Commission – Monica reported during the Subdivision and Land Development review.
- B. Board of Supervisors – Kathryn reported that the BOS concentrated on the Applebrook agreement for golf outings and the deer management issues. The trash contract was awarded to a new company – McCusker and Ogbourne. A slight rate increase is expected and the possibility of trash can requirements may be announced. They also continued discussions about a new generator.
- C. Park & Recreation – Ben emailed the report. There is no meeting in December. Sue will attend the November 28 Workshop.
- D. Conservancy Board – Monica will cover the meeting on 11/14 and Kathryn will cover the meeting on 12/11.

H. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Projects – Linda will work on the pictures from Images of America while down in Florida. Monica is working on the transcription of Buck Shaffer’s oral history.
- B. Property Research Update – none.
- C. Educational Area: Blacksmith Shop & Plank House –
 - Ben would like to withdraw his sign suggestion because of concerns about vandalism. Two out of the three previous signs have been destroyed and the proposed hook-on signs on the new sign could easily be stolen. He suggests doing away with the 6’ wagon wheel sign because it is too big (only 2’x3’ signs are allowed) as the Township should not ask for a variance. Gary pointed out that if the wagon wheel were attached to the building, the size would not matter as it would be considered a decoration not a sign. Connie suggested having half of the wheel protrude over the edge of the building and Kathryn agreed it would be more charming. Gary said the size of a silhouette sign could be slightly larger and members agreed it would meet the tone of the neighborhood. Also, Ben suggested the HC should invest in an informational sign with block letters and a plexiglass cover that could be locked. Connie does not think neighbors would like a lighted sign and would prefer something more historical. Gary agreed to provide the HC with a sketch plan of the property, including building locations and distances from the road, to help them decide on sign placement(s).

Ben also suggested naming the location “East Goshen (or Goshenville) Historical and Nature Center” and would like to see the Conservancy Board provide guides/programs. Kathryn said programs need to be consistent and suggested scheduling a workshop with the CB. Ben said it should be a collaborative effort between the HC, CB, P&R and Public Works as they all have a vested interest in the area. Kathryn said that the HC needs to define their plan before approaching the other ABC’s. Kathryn also suggested having hands-on activities once a month, May-October, plus the two Living History Days. She offered “Goshenville Living History and Nature Centers.” Ellen said they should suggest their own ideas and ask the CB to do the same. Ben proposed to ask the CB what they would like to name the area and provide programs that tie-in to it. Connie said they should give some suggestions and be sure to include P&R too. Dolores said it was a unique resource area and there were a lot of opportunities for collaborative programs. Some program suggestions include a Colonial Walk and scavenger hunt at the Blacksmith Shop. The HC will review the other ABC’s 10-year comp plans and plan a workshop to further discuss the educational development of this area.

I. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. 2008 Goals – Members reviewed the draft of their 2008 goals, immediate, long-term and on-going. Members agreed that the immediate goals looked good but re-ordered them to reflect their priorities.

- a. Living History Days
- b. Increase visitors
- c. Design brochure for Goshenville educational area – Ben’s revision of the Blacksmith Shop’s brochure could be incorporated into a larger brochure for the entire area. Kathryn said they should keep them separate but review at a later date.
- d. Media campaign – members agreed to incorporate their on-going goal of “promoting historic activities and information through the media” into this immediate goal.
- e. Develop website section for historical activities and information
- f. Rocky Hill National Historic District – members agreed this should be moved from long-term to immediate.

Members also reviewed and re-ordered the long-term goals:

- a. “Images of America” – members agreed that completing 4 oral histories per year (1 per quarter) was a more realistic goal. Contacting residents is the biggest obstacle. Need better technology to speed process.
- b. GIS Project – They need to identify every single style house in the township. It’s already been plotted but a committee needs to work on it. Ben said it would take up to 3 years. Many surrounding townships already have it completed.
- c. “First Person Interpreter” program for Living History Day – members discussed several possible ideas and would like to develop further.
- d. Investigate Plaques
- e. Town Tour & Village Walk Plans for 2010
- f. Develop 10-year Action Plan
- g. Graduation Resource – need WCASD to take the first step. Delores suggested tying this into the GIS project.

Members reviewed and re-ordered the on-going goals:

- a. Maintain awareness of roles, responsibilities and duties.
- b. Develop strong volunteer program.
- c. Images of America – Linda continues to work on these images.
- d. Inventory of Historic Resources.
- e. “Review, Implement & Recommend” Ordinance Changes – major changes were recently made to the Historic Preservation Ordinance so this may not be necessary.
- f. Participate in Historic Related Events
- g. Provide newsletter articles.
- h. Adopt-a-Highway Program.
- i. Investigate sources for grants.

Kathryn will pull together the goals as discussed, reorder them using and then email to the HC members for comments. The second draft will be emailed to all for review and additional changes. The updated document will be included in the December packets so that members can review and approve the 2008 Goals and Objectives at the December meeting.

2. Other –

- a. Diane Tidy has a large amount of material that she is selling at discounted rate that would be great for making period clothing. Her email address is: tidys@comcast.net. Ellen will contact Diane to get specific information on types of fabric and costs for the next meeting. Also, Bonnie Radford from Living History Day, has some reasonably priced costumes available for purchase. The HC should think about investing in some men’s clothing as well.
- b. Ben said Linda Hicks with Goshen Friends School is interested in going to the Colonial Plantation next spring. She now has a group of 20+children scheduled to see the Blacksmith Shop on 11/19 at 9:30am. Dolores will be available to do a tour of the Plank House. A colonial cooking program with Nancy Diversa is pending.

- c. Sue said the Massey House has a brochure with two recipes inside; they may want to consider offering a handout like this.
- d. Kathryn attended the evaluation meeting for the Town Tours & Village Walks. A lot of good ideas were exchanged and summary of the 2007 program was distributed. East Goshen was asked if they would be willing to help other townships that participate next year. Members agreed they would be willing to help other townships who will have TT & V W in their areas.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Connie made a motion to adjourn. Ellen seconded the motion. No public comment. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:05pm.

Respectfully submitted by: _____
Tracie Hill, Recording Secretary