

EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 13, 2007

The East Goshen Township Historical Commission held their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, December 13, 2007 at 7:00 PM at the East Goshen Township Building. In attendance were: Chair Kathryn Yahraes, Vice-Chairman Monica Close, and members Ellen Carmody, Sue Ciorletti, Connie Bain, Ben Rohrbeck and Linda Gordon. Also in attendance were: Gary Althouse (Township Building Inspector), Joe McDonough (Board of Supervisors) 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

Monica moved to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2007 meeting as corrected. Ben seconded the motion. No public comment or further discussion was heard. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention by Linda Gordon who was not at the November meeting.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Appointments – Dolores Higgins has been appointed to the HC for a 5-year term. Monica Close will step down effective 1/1/08. Ben Rohrbeck’s term was extended until 2012.
- B. Activity Calendar Update – Valley Forge will hold their annual “March In,” marking the arrival of troops in Valley Forge, on 12/19 from 6-8pm. Members reviewed the 2008 Calendar and made corrections.
 - The East Goshen Clean Up Day was changed to 4/12/08.
 - The Park & Recreation board has scheduled a character actor, Harry Truman, at the Windfield Hall, Hershey’s Mill on 3/27/08. There is a minimal fee and limited space for this “Give ‘em Hell Harry” show.
 - The Plank House Volunteer Orientation was scheduled for 4/19/08 at 1:00 pm.
 - The park pavilion dedication is tentatively scheduled for June. The HC will need to collaborate with the P&R on the program.
 - Living History Day was changed to 9/20/08.
 - The Paoli Battlefield Illumination was changed to October 11th.
 - Adopt a Highway Clean-up will be held in September rather than October.

E. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – *none*

F. SUB-DIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT

- A. Willis Tract (East Boot Road) – the agreement of sale for the easement is being finalized.
- B. Hansen Property (Sorrell Hill) – Gary reported that there is a plan in-house for the 1st house, however they are still unsettled on the pool issue; the PC does not support individual pools. Joe explained that in an effort to avoid numerous variance requests, the BOS seeks to approve a zoning change in Randal Arndt (cluster) developments to allow pools to be built within 5 ft of the setback. The current ordinance for pools is a 25’ setback from the rear of the property. Members discussed the appearance of unfair favoritism or spot zoning for these homeowners however Joe maintained that the BOS was taking a leadership role to avoid the excessive variance requests that are inevitable.
- C. Perakis Property – Joe reported that they have postponed the date for posting escrow until June 2008.

G. LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Planning Commission – Kathryn reported that the PC is reviewing the proposed amendment to the pool ordinance. The PC reviewed a new application for CTDI who will work with the Conservancy Board on plantings. The Cass variance request for an addition to their home was approved and will go the BOS and ZHB next week. Kathryn thanked Monica for her attendance at the PC meetings in 2007.
- B. Municipal Authority – Ellen reported that they continue report preparations for the Lockwood Chase STP and the Hershey’s Mill special study. The RCSTP project is on schedule and the I&I Abatement Plan was submitted to the DEP for review. The MA moved to reappoint the MA solicitor and engineer for 2008.
- C. Board of Supervisors – Joe said the 2008 budget has not be finalized and they continue to debate sewer rates. A compromise was reached with Applebrook for golf outings in 2008. The trash pick-up was awarded to McCusker & Ogborne. All ABC agenda and monthly meeting minutes will be posted on the township website in 2008.
- D. Park & Recreation – held a workshop on 2008 goals; no regular meeting was held in December.
- E. Conservancy Board – the CB will expand 7 to members. The new members are Brian Demonte, Jacqueline D’Antonio and Sandra Snyder. The CB reviewed their 2008 goals and discussed naming the area on Reservoir Road the “Supplee Valley Preserve on Reservoir Road.” They gave favorable feedback on the use of the Blacksmith Shop/Plank House area as an education center and suggested incorporating the words “preserve” or “Colonial” into the name. They discussed the Hershey’s Mill Dam extensively as it needs DEP certification. There are numerous issues that may cost as much as a million dollars in repairs. The HC has a responsibility to review the dam as an “historic resource” regardless of time or cost. Grants will be researched.

H. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Projects – none.
- B. Property Research Update – Ed distributed chain of title for 1468 Morstein Road and 1030 King Road. Dates of Construction were distributed for 8124 Goshen Road, 1631 & 1629 E. Strasburg Road, and 323 N. Dutton Mill Road.
- C. CCHPN Demolition Workshop – members reviewed the agenda for the “And the Walls Came Tumbling Down... Not” workshop scheduled for March 8, 2008 at the Brandywine River Museum from 9am – 1:30pm.
- D. Living History Day – members agree to hold a workshop on January 12th from 10:30 am-12:30 pm. It will immediately follow the Township ABC meeting. Agenda items include the June 7 Living History Day 2008, the 200th birthday of the Plank House, and development of the education center.
- E. Education Center – Gary distributed a satellite photo of the Plank House/Blacksmith Shop area, along with a sketch drawing. Ben said prices vary greatly for signs but they can purchase the parts and make a sign themselves. A two-side, 3’x4’ sign costs about \$600, plus the cost for plexiglass and lettering. Letters will be 4” high. The HC has a copy of the township sign ordinance.
- F. Other:
 - 1. Town Tours & Village Walks – Ben mentioned that Hershey’s Mill was brought up as a possible location but members agree it may not be practical because historical places are too far apart; a shuttle would be needed. East Goshen won’t be on the town tour until 2010. Connie suggested developing myths/legends, in addition to 1st person talks.
 - 2. Kathryn distributed an article from Chester County Living, 11/25/07, reporting on the event sponsored by Sen. Andy Dinniman, an avid supporter of historical preservation.
 - 3. Sears House – the CCHPN held a presentation on 11/29. The Power Point presentation will be put on the network’s website and offered in a DVD. Kathryn reported that there are 350-400 different styles of Sears houses and sizes – many more than most people would think.
 - 4. Material for Costumes – Ellen needs to follow-up. Maureen & Jim Falcone are making new costumes and also need to be contacted about their old ones.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2008 Elections – most chairs serve for two year terms. Kathryn agreed to be Chairman of the HC for 2008, with her focus on leadership development. Connie agreed to serve as Vice-Chair. Elections will be held in January.
2. Expenses
 - a. Two receipts for the Volunteer Thank You Reception, totally approximately \$120, are due. Linda moved that the Historical Commission approve the payment of expenditures for the Volunteer Thank You Reception. Ellen seconded the motion. No further discussion or public comment was heard. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Ben has been researching “post leg vices” for his hot metal work in the Blacksmith Shop. After bidding on several on ebay, Ben purchased one for \$45, plus S/H. This vice will greatly improve safety, especially when work with school children. Linda moved that the Historical Commission approve the expenditures for the post leg vice for the Blacksmith Shop. Ellen seconded the motion. No further discussion or public comment was heard. The motion passed unanimously.
3. 2008 Goals – the 2007 goals were submitted to the BOS and the 2008 Goals were revised. Having no additional changes, Ben moved that the Historical Commission approve the 2008 Goals & Objectives as set forth in the 2nd Draft, dated 12/08/07. Sue seconded the motion. No further discussion or public comment was heard. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Newsletter – members reviewed the schedule and suggested articles. Ben will write an article on Hershey’s Mill Village rather than Battle of the Clouds for the October issue. Linda will include an article on “Little LuLu” for the July issue. Members were asked to think of additional articles topics.
5. Images of America – Linda would like to include a section on famous people. Members discussed whether it should include people who were actual residents, philanthropists or landowners (ie. George Climber only spent summers here and Atwater Kent owned property but didn’t reside in East Goshen. Other potential inclusions could be Ashbridge, Cornwallis, Sullivan and General?). Linda would like to focus on 20th century people. Additional research and help is needed.
6. Video – Kathryn would like to purchase a copy of the Sage video production for Tredyffrin Twp. The cost is \$20.
7. Software programs – Ben found a software program named “Dragon Naturally Speaking” that could be used to help with the Oral History Project. The cost is about \$100 and translates audio into written text. It is unclear if it will work for an interview, where multiple people are talking. Dolores will contact the software manufacturer about their project and see if they have any programs capable of meeting their needs.

J. PUBLIC COMMENT

Monica Close expressed her thanks for working on the commission. Kathryn thanked her and hopes she will continue to volunteer.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Linda made a motion to adjourn. Connie seconded the motion. No public comment. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by: _____
Tracie Hill, Recording Secretary