

EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES
JANUARY 12, 2008

The East Goshen Township Historical Commission held a workshop on Saturday, January 12, 2008 at 10:30 AM at the East Goshen Township Building. In attendance were: Chair Kathryn Yahraes, Vice-Chairman Connie Bain, and members Ellen Carmody, Sue Ciorletti, and Ben Rohrbeck. Excused absences by Dolores Higgins and Linda Gordon.

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:46 AM.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Unless members had other things to discuss, the two agenda items to be discussed would be the Education Center Concept for the Plank House / Blacksmith Shop and the June 7, 2008 Living History Day and Celebration of the 200th Birthday of the Plank House.

C. EDUCATION CENTER CONCEPT

- A. Ben reviewed the background. Vibration from the road is not good for the wagon. Group voiced concern for leaving the forge area and the Blacksmith Shop unattended while walking over to a separate building that would house the Conestoga Wagon (safety and security issues).
- B. Wheelwright Shop – Wheelwrights made the wheels. Blacksmiths did other things. Ferriers are the ones who shod the horses. Discovery and the history Channel have had several programs on these three occupations. Need to look into the purchase price of these programs after finding them on-line.
- C. Potential AV Presentations
- i. Plank House
 - ii. Blacksmith Shop
 - iii. Conestoga Wagon
 - iv. Blacksmithing
 - v. Horseshoeing
 - vi. Norm glass's slide show on the restoration of the Plank House
 - vii. Living Histories
- D. The meeting room in the Blacksmith Shop could be turned into a museum. The Conestoga Wagon could be housed in there. The HC would need to have this well thought-out before presenting it to the BOS for consideration. Meeting space would have to be replaced. Suggestion was to build a replica of either the Presbyterian Chapel or a one-room Schoolhouse on the area and use it for meetings, educational programs, etc. Need to get from Diane the usage information of groups that meet in the blacksmith Shop. Also need to find out how close to the floodplain a structure could be built. Connie mentioned the use of barn beams for the structure.
- E. Signage on Paoli Pike directing people to the Education Center was brought up as an idea to draw more people to the Blacksmith Shop and the Plank House.
- F. Over the next few meetings, the HC will continue to discuss ideas for the Education Center Concept.

D. LIVING HISTORY DAY / PLANK HOUSE BRITHDAY – JUNE 6, 2008

- A. Need a handout on what plank houses are and why we are unique. Show some examples. Maybe even get info on log cabins, log houses, planks, corner posts, dovetailing, etc.

1 Talk to Norm Glass about constructing a miniature of our Plank House interior structure
2 that would show our unique features. Also ask JMA what they might have in their
3 archives. Miniature would be placed in the museum room in the Plank House.

4 B Handouts would include:

- 5 i. Plank House Brochures
- 6 ii. Blacksmith shop handout
- 7 iii. Boardwalk information
- 8 iv. Conestoga Wagon
- 9 v. Coloring books
- 10 vi. Colonial gardening – to be developed/obtained
- 11 vii. What is a plank house – to be developed
- 12 viii. Demonstration information – i.e. Candle dipping, lace making, children’s
13 games, quill pen writing and ink making, etc.

14 B. Initial ceremony – Held at beginning of the day

- 15 i. Recognition / presentations
- 16 ii. Birthday Cake
- 17 iii. Blow out the candles
- 18 iv. Sign a big birthday card – all visitors throughout the day
- 19 v. Photo ops

20 C. Staffing –

- 21 i. Regular Plank House volunteers, ABC members and others
- 22 ii. Conestoga Wagon – Ben
- 23 iii. Blacksmithing – Bob Klinger
- 24 iv. Antique tools – Norm glass
- 25 v. Cooking – Plank House Volunteers (contact Olga Leake and/or
26 Clarissa Dillon
- 27 vi. Lace Ladies
- 28 vii. Mike McGuinnes and Family – candle dipping/soap making,
29 children’s games, etc
- 30 viii. Jim & Maurine Falcone – quill pen writing and ink making
- 31 ix. Roberta DeLeo – Ladies’ homemaking skills
- 32 x. Bonnie Radford – ladies’ costumes
- 33 xi. Butter making and butter churn demonstration (contact Deb Sax at
34 the Colonial Plantation)
- 35 xii. Camp Kitchen – Olga Leake
- 36 xiii. Re-enactors – contact Charlie Lang
- 37 xiv. Garden area – crops grown, medicinal herbs (Deb Peterson, Beth
38 Rupp, Morris Arboretum, Historic Yellow Springs, Karyn Caron

39 D. Activities – Discussion about ongoing demonstrations and special demonstrations that
40 would be held at a certain time of the day. Include in publicity. Need to purchase two
41 sugar cones, loose tea. Look for an antique spice box (or get someone to make one for
42 us.

- 43 i. Cooking on the hearth
- 44 ii. Cooking over open fire outside
- 45 iii. Dipping candles
- 46 iv. Soap making
- 47 v. Churning butter
- 48 vi. Norm’s antique tools
- 49 vii. Norm’s slides on Plank House reconstruction
- 50 viii. Garden area
- 51 ix. Children’s games

- 1 x. Blacksmithing
- 2 xi. Horseshoeing
- 3 xii. Wheelwright
- 4 xiii. Lace Ladies
- 5 xiv. Noah Webster – first person interpretation & 18th Century Dancing
- 6 xv. Colonial Homemaker skills demonstrations
- 7 xvi. Tape looming
- 8 xvii. Colonial clothing
- 9 xviii. Others – bring up other ideas at next meeting.
- 10 E. Publicity – Need to get info out early March to all avenues of media.
- 11 F. Timeline -- Kathryn will develop a timeline and distribute it at the February meeting.
- 12
- 13

14 **E. ADJOURNMENT**

15
16 There being no further business to discuss, Kathryn thanked all for giving up their Saturday morning
17 to attend the 2008 ABC Planning session and to attend the HC Workshop. The meeting adjourned at
18 12:30 pm.

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20 Respectfully submitted by: _____
21 *Kathryn M. Yahraes, Chairman*