

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP**  
**HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 14, 2008**

The East Goshen Township Historical Commission held their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, February 14, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the East Goshen Township Building. In attendance were: Chair Kathryn Yahraes and members Ellen Carmody, Sue Ciorletti, Dolores Higgins and Ben Rohrbeck. Excused absences by Connie Bain and Linda Gordon. Also in attendance were: Gary Althouse (Township Building Inspector), George Martynick (Planning Commission), Ed Lendradt (Historical Commission Research Volunteer), Ruth Scadding (Park & Recreation) and Joe McDonough (Board of Supervisors).

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:03PM.

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Chairman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. MINUTES**

Ben moved to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2008 meeting as corrected. Ellen seconded the motion. No public comment or further discussion was heard. The motion passed unanimously.

Sue moved to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2008 workshop meeting as corrected. Ellen seconded the motion. No public comment or further discussion was heard. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention by Dolores Higgins.

**D. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A. Calendar – no changes.

B. Other

- The Marple Historical Society has scheduled a lecture on the Battle of Llanerch Crossing for Tuesday 2/26 at 7:30pm.
- Ellen's daughter Jennifer temporarily replaced a video production teacher at Rustin High School and coordinated a student film festival. There were 17 submissions from the 3 West Chester School District high schools, 200 attendees and \$600 raised.
- Gary Althouse was temporarily promoted to "Acting Zoning Officer" while Mark Gordon is on military leave.

**E. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT –**

- Kathryn thanked everyone for their newsletter articles and asked Joe about adjusting the township newsletter schedule or adding a 5<sup>th</sup> issue because so many of the Historical Commission activities do not follow the newsletter schedule. Joe suggested sending a letter to the other ABC's for feedback. He also recommended sending out postcard mailings for special events as needed throughout the year. The newsletter schedule primarily impacts the HC, CB and P & R scheduled events and classes.
- Newly updated and approved resolutions were distributed by the BOS for:
  - i. Resolution 08-27 – Public recordings of township meetings.
  - ii. Resolution 08-29 – Code of Conduct
  - iii. Resolution 08-40 – Email communications

**F. SUB-DIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT**

A. Willis Tract (East Boot Road) – they are still waiting for receipt of the signed agreement of sale for the easement.

B. Hansen Property (Sorrell Hill) – Gary reported that construction has begun – the first floor on one of the houses has been framed and they are installing utilities. George said the PC had a tie vote

1 on the proposed 10' pool setback amendment. They sent their recommendation to the BOS who  
2 will have the final decision.

3 C. Mita – postponed.  
4

#### 5 **G. LIAISON REPORTS**

6 Kathryn restated that the liaison assignments for 2008 are: Ben & Sue (P&R), Connie (PC), Dolores  
7 (CB), Ellen (MA) and Kathryn/Linda (BOS/ZHB).

8 A. Planning Commission – George reported that the PC voted on the pool amendment for single-  
9 family open space developments. There were a number of applicants who did not show. New  
10 Cingular Wireless replaced cabinetry without notification.

11 B. Conservancy Board – Dolores reported that there was much discussion about the CTDI  
12 landscape plan and a site walk scheduled for 2/14. George said CTDI is proposing significant  
13 vegetation and are good neighbors to the Township. They also discussed the Penn State  
14 lecture on rain barrels/gardens, expanding educational opportunities including the Reservoir  
15 Rd. projects and recycling, planting of Ben's Chestnut tree by the Blacksmith Shop. The EGT  
16 Clean up Day is scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup> and the tree planting at Chester Creek is scheduled  
17 for April 19<sup>th</sup>. Ruth suggested contacting local scout groups for volunteers. They also need to  
18 finalize the YMCA tree placement with P & R.

19 C. Board of Supervisors – Joe said there is a split decision on the Township deer hunting  
20 program; tick tubes and bait stations have been approved for a 1-year pilot program. The  
21 biggest decision facing the Township this year will be the RCSTP expansion project which  
22 will result in a controversial financial impact to residents. They have also been in talks with  
23 West Goshen about rehab/expanding the Boot Rd./Greenhill Rd. intersection. The BOS  
24 ranked goals and objectives for all the ABC's as high, medium and low priorities.  
25

#### 26 **H. OLD BUSINESS**

27 A. Projects – Members agree to use “East Goshen Blacksmith & Wheelwright Shop” for the Living  
28 History Day display. Signs for this area are still in the process of being developed; input is needed  
29 from CB.

30 B. Property Research Update – Ed distributed Dates of Construction summary reports for 1213 &  
31 1220 Youngs Lane, 56 Line Road, 940 & 1030 King Road and 1331 Greenhill Road. Ed cannot  
32 corroborate the 1710 construction date on Jackie Weber's house. Ed also discussed the “Metes  
33 and Bounds” surveyor's program that may be an aide in future chain of ownership research.  
34 Research is becoming more difficult.

35 C. History Day Competition at Immaculata, Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> from 8am – 2pm – Repeat judge  
36 training is scheduled for 2/16 and new judge training is scheduled for 2/23. A handful of new  
37 judges were recruited by HC members; 400 participants are expected.

38 D. Education Center – Kathryn distributed a “past” and “possible” activity list as compiled during  
39 the January workshop. Members discussed additional activity ideas and added them to the list.  
40 Ben noted that after helping some middle school students with a book report video project at the  
41 Plank House, he believes they can get more kids involved in historical opportunities. Sue pointed  
42 out that public awareness is key to their success. Dolores suggested coordinating with  
43 neighboring historical sites on weekend activities such as the Delaware County “passport”  
44 program. If they pursue a history camp program, Ellen said it needs to be equally appealing to  
45 boys and girls. The Historical Commission could look to join the Chester County Park &  
46 Recreation Summer History Camp program that currently has two locations for the 2009 season.

47 E. Conestoga Wagon – After further research Ben is confident they should continue to house the  
48 Conestoga Wagon in the Blacksmith Shop. Ben suggested moving the wagon into the meeting  
49 room but admits it will take up about half the room and questions the practicality of the move  
50 until additional meeting space is obtained. Historically the blacksmith did all the metal work for  
51 the community while the wheelwright did all the woodwork. The new vice will be installed by the  
52 spring opening. If the Historical Commission pursues a separate building to house the wagon,  
53 volunteers and safety are Ben's biggest concerns. Kathryn said moving the wagon to a separate  
54 house might impact the purpose of an education center plan with buildings in close proximity,

1 but as they discussed during the workshop, erecting a replica chapel or one-room schoolhouse  
2 that could serve as a meeting room would fit nicely into the village setting; more research is  
3 needed.  
4

5 Joe said they need to develop an action plan and fundamentally decide how they want to proceed;  
6 if the scope and parameters of the project have changed, they should ask the BOS to reduce the  
7 priority of this action item. Members agree that the wagon will no longer be moved outside for  
8 special events and maintenance in its permanent location is of the utmost importance. Joe is  
9 excited about the vision of the HC and has always been supportive of demonstrative/physical  
10 entities that will enhance the historical district so long as they are achievable goals with  
11 reasonable expense.

- 12 F. County Comprehensive Landscapes2 Plan– Joe serves on the Steering Committee which is  
13 currently developing the Landscapes2 plan. Members discussed the different phases and grant  
14 information.
- 15 G. Costumes – Ben recommended purchasing teen/child sized costumes. Members agreed they  
16 should seek student volunteers. Dolores said simple costumes could be used for special activities  
17 and/or photo opportunities. Because of health concerns, members agreed they will not have  
18 hats/bonnets unless they are purchased outright.
- 19 H. Living History Day – Members are well into their planning and need to get more documentation  
20 and follow-up on particular sections including the following:
- 21 i. Staffing
  - 22 ii. Garden - schedule two activities/talks.
  - 23 iii. Quilt – on-going, outside
  - 24 iv. Ladies costumes – on-going, inside.
  - 25 v. Lace Ladies – on-going demos, outside.
  - 26 vi. Candle/Soap Making – schedule separate activities.
  - 27 vii. Antique tools – slideshow plus schedule tool demo
  - 28 viii. Homemaking skills – on-going, inside.
  - 29 ix. Butter-making/Churn – need to confirm.
  - 30 x. Camp Kitchen – on-going re-enactors.

31 Sue worries about weather affecting the cooking activities outside. Because of space constraints,  
32 members agree not to have a farrier in June. Maybe the fall or another special activity would be  
33 better to include other animals such as sheep sheering.

- 34 I. Oral History – Delores has been working with the software program which can only recognize  
35 one voice at a time. The program can be trained to translate different voices but difficult.  
36

### 37 I. NEW BUSINESS

38 Kathryn suggested they develop co-op programs with the Chamber of Commerce. Although the  
39 Chamber renovated the building, it maintains the “feel” of the original building. The Chamber owns  
40 the house while the Township owns the property it sits on.  
41

### 42 J. PUBLIC COMMENT – none

43

### 44 K. ADJOURNMENT

45 Ben made a motion to adjourn. Ellen seconded the motion. No public comment. The motion carried  
46 unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:08 pm.  
47

48 Respectfully submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

49 *Tracie Hill, Recording Secretary*