

+EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 13, 2008

The East Goshen Township Historical Commission held their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, March 13, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the East Goshen Township Building. In attendance were: Chairman Kathryn Yahraes and members Ellen Carmody, Sue Ciorletti, Dolores Higgins, Vice Chairman Connie Bain and Ben Rohrbeck. Excused absence by Linda Gordon. Also in attendance were: Terry Bonenberger (Zoning Office), Megann Hedgecock (Planning Commission), Ed Lendrat (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 7:05PM.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. MINUTES

Ben moved to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2008 meeting as written. Delores seconded the motion. No public comment or further discussion was heard. The motion passed unanimously.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Calendar –

- Ellen explained that on July 4th Paoli Battlefield will host “let Freedom Ring” from 1-2:30 pm with keynote speaker Bruce Mowday, music by Brandywine Friends, bell ringing at 2pm and scout ceremonies. Family activities will be featured.
- Ruth said the Easter Egg Hunt will start at 9am on 3/15. A light breakfast will be served at CC Chamber of Business & Industry before the event.
- Keep EGT Beautiful Day is 4/12.

B. Other

- East Goshen is not participating in the 2008 Town Tours & Village Walks as a site but has been asked to help Malvern Borough on 7/24 with registration, refreshments, acting as guides, etc. Historical Commission members agreed to do this.
- Spring yard pickup days are 4/12, 4/26 and 5/10.
- The Delaware County Heritage Committee will host an “Intro to Oral History” on 3/29.
- Tredyffrin Historical Preservation Trust will host a spring lecture series on 4/30. Cost is \$15 for the “Visit with Abigail Adams” lecture.
- The HBO mini-series on John Adams begins March 16th. Kathryn requested a copy if anyone could record it.
- The Preservation Alliance will host the 2008 Old House Fair on Saturday 3/22. Demonstrations, presentations and vendors will be on hand at the Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia for this event.
- Ben said that PHMC (PA Historical Museum Commission) hosted Charter Day at a variety of locations on March 9 during Heritage Week. This is a special event run entirely by volunteers. Not high attendance but good day.
- Ben said attendance for the Blacksmith Shop and Plank House might actually go up as a result of the high fuel costs because people will be looking for activities to do closer to home.
- The 2nd Annual Rebecca Lukens Award will be presented to Jane Davidson on 3/20; cost \$25.

E. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT –

Kathryn thanked everyone for participating in the training sessions for the National History Day Competition, which will be held on 3/15 at Immaculata University. Kathryn also announced that Gordon Whiting, a former HC member and Township Auditor, passed away on 3/11; services are scheduled for 3/17. The Township will send a donation on behalf of all the ABC's.

F. SUB-DIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT

- A. Willis Tract (East Boot Road) – Terry Bonenberger reported that they are still waiting for the signed agreement of sale for the easement.
- B. Hansen Property (Sorrell Hill) – Terry Bonenberger reported that construction is going well. Megann said because the PC had a tie vote on the proposed 10' pool setback amendment, the applicant adjusted the lot lines and resubmitted his plan to the PC. Open space was actually increased and now all lots will meet the 25' pool setback requirement if they choose to have a pool. Houses have not been moved any closer to the historical house, only the location of the lot lines. Yerkes is currently reviewing the plans and a recommendation will be made in April. The HC would like to review the new plan and make comments before the BOS meeting on 4/15.
- C. Perakis property – still on hold. Joe believes the time limit has expired and that plan is dead; future development will need to be submitted as a new plan. HC members briefly discussed the history of this property and various development plans over the years.
- D. Sullivan's Grove – this development in Hershey's Mill needs to get street name suggestions. Ed McFalls was referred to the HC. The name "Sullivan" is not currently on the HC suggested list for street names but members agreed it is appropriate. Kathryn will send a recommendation letter to Ed McFalls with a CC to the Planning Commission suggesting that "Sullivan" also be incorporated into the street name.
- E. McStravick – Megann reported that a pool variance was approved by the PC based on pre-existing hardships.

G. LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Board of Supervisors – Kathryn emailed the report. The BOS meetings will now begin with a moment of silence in honor of military service men and women. They are working on expanding the e-mail resolution to meet the "Right to Know" state legislation. Information-sharing is okay through emails but decision-making is not. All written documents, including email, are now a matter of public record.
 - i. Deer Management Committee - is not yet considered a viable ABC because administrative decisions have yet to be finalized. Tick tubes and 4-Post Feeders have been approved. The BOS voted 3:2 to approve the hunting program on Township open space.
 - ii. Applebrook Trail – the trail will be expanded from the Spring House at Paoli Pike & Line Rd to the intersection of Line Rd. & Boot Rd. Macadam will be used for easier maintenance reasons. Because of safety issues, our Township will recommend that a "street crossing button" be added to the traffic light that will go in at Paoli Pike and Line Road. The light will be funded by EGT, Willistown and the Bryan O'Neal Organization. The BOS is also looking into grants to help fund the project.
 - iii. The Rocky Hill PECO project will require a conduit to go underneath the intersection at Rt. 352 & Strasburg Rd. There will be traffic detours and the intersection completely closed for one weekend. The project will be completed by June 2nd.
 - iv. Minutes from all the ABC's are now on the township website. Terry Bonenberger (Township Webmaster) reported that all minutes from 2000 to present are in PDF format. The HC will continue to develop their section of the website to include information on event schedules; Ben & Delores will work with Kathryn. Terry is generating a bulk e-mail list to send out notices. There are four sections: upcoming events, public notices, upcoming meetings and FYI (forms, etc.). There are some browser incompatibility problems that they are working to resolve. Ruth suggesting including an article in the newsletter.

- Joe reported that Marty Shane's back operation was successful; after he recuperates, he will go to rehab.
- B. Park & Recreation – Ruth said only a continental breakfast, not a pancake breakfast, will be served before the Easter Egg Hunt. There will be free pictures with the Easter Bunny.
 - C. Municipal Authority – Ellen reported that the RCSTP permit, sent to the DEP, is in legal review. The Phase I Bog Turtle Survey is scheduled for 3/12.

H. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Projects – no discussion on other projects.
- B. Property Research Update – Ed distributed Dates of Construction summary reports for 208 Westtown Way, 1615 Paoli Pike, 1342 Holly Berry Lane and 200 E. Dutts Mill Way. There are 20-25 more properties to do. Ed said the “Metes and Bounds” surveyor’s program should be very useful in mapping out the exact location of houses and how parcels fit together.
- C. Education Center – Members reviewed “past” and “possible” activity list and agree to update on a rolling basis. Kathryn asked members to come up with ideas for the center, regardless of financial constraints, for discussion at their next meeting.
- D. Bellows – Norm Glass purchased Bellows from Rhode Island for \$165 and offered it to the Historical Commission for use in the Blacksmith Shop. Ben discovered fiberglass inside the bellows where rodents had been living in their former location. Damage to the inside chamber is unknown but the leather needs to be replaced. After using bellows for the first time last week at Brandywine Battlefield, Ben said they are actually very difficult to use and would prefer the set up we currently have. However, having the bellows to show pre and post civil war technology would be nice. The Massey House repaired a set of bellows last year but the cost was unknown. Kathryn will check with Linda about possible bellows that the HC already has out for repair while Ben looks into the cost to bring these bellows back to working condition.
- E. Living History Day – a few more presenters need to be finalized. Jane Dorchester will do the “History of Milltown.” A press release and photos will be sent to approximately 15 newspapers.
- F. Oral History Software Program – Dolores has been frustrated and thinks she doesn't have the right editing software for the Commission's use. She wants to try editing the questions and then train the “Dragon program” to learn the interviewee while adding the questions back in later. She continues to work with the technology. Ironically the program has difficulty with small words vs. large words.
- G. Other –
 - i. Kathryn distributed a copy of the information pamphlet on the Blacksmith Shop, the Wheelwright Shop and the Plank House that will be distributed at Immaculata on 3/15.
 - ii. The CCHPN “Demolition” Workshop at the Brandywine River Museum on 3/8 was excellent. Dolores elaborated on the presentation about an East Vincent restoration process. The workshop was very informative and well attended. It is evident that EGT has good communication between the ABC's vs. other townships.
 - iii. Landscapes2 – historical information is now available at the website: www.landscapes2.org.
 - iv. The “Connections Survey” from the Chester County Regional Planning Commission does not include a historical preservation section.

I. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Apprenticeship Program – as a former scoutmaster, Ben has been developing a youth involvement program for the Blacksmith Shop. He has determined that permission slips, medical authorization and consent forms should be required by all participants. Joe recommended working with Frank Vattilano because of his experience with organizing the youth programs for the Township Recreation Department. Connie suggested working with the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts on their badge work.
- B. Costumes – Kathryn asked the HC to approve \$100 for Liz McGuinness to purchase material and make a couple of kids' costumes. Ben explained that Liz is willing to make the costumes for \$5/part plus material. Girls' costumes consist of a shift, dress and apron; boys' costumes are a

shirt and knee britches with buttons. Liz can get material from a remnant shop in NJ. Ideally costumes should be made from linen or wool with cotton being a third choice. Dolores will look into getting material at wholesale. A total of 3-5 costumes in small, medium and large would be ideal.

- C. Maps – members reviewed four maps that Ben wants to donate.
 - i. Original roadbed of North Chester Road (c. 1775).
 - ii. Dutch map of settlements (c. 1673).
 - iii. Philadelphia and adjacent towns (c. 1750).
 - iv. Mainline Railroad (unknown).

J. PUBLIC COMMENT – *none*

K. ADJOURNMENT

Connie made a motion to adjourn. Delores seconded the motion. No public comment. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: _____
Tracie Hill, Recording Secretary