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4 **EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP**
5 **HISTORICAL COMMISSION**
6 **MEETING MINUTES**
7 **July 10, 2008**
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10 The East Goshen Township Historical Commission held their regularly scheduled meeting on
11 Thursday, July 10, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the East Goshen Township Building. In attendance were:
12 Chairman Kathryn Yahraes and members Ellen Carmody, Sue Ciorletti, Linda Gordon, Dolores
13 Higgins, and Ben Rohrbeck, Also in attendance were Megann Hedgecock (Planning Commission), Ed
14 Lendrat (Historical Commission Research Volunteer) and Gary Althouse (Building Inspector).
15 Excused absences were Vice Chairman Connie Bain and ABC Liaisons Ruth Scadding (Park &
16 Recreation) and Joe McDonough (Board of Supervisors). The Chair introduced Mary Lou Knight who
17 will assume recording secretary duties for the Committee.
18

19 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

20 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
21

22 **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

23 The Chairman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
24

25 **3. MINUTES**

26 Corrections were made to the April 10, 2008 meeting minutes. There were no other comments.
27 Ben moved to approve the corrected minutes of the April 10, 2008 meeting. Sue seconded the
28 motion and the vote was unanimous with Linda Gordon abstaining since she was not in attendance
29 at the meeting. Corrections were made to the June 12, 2008 meeting minutes. No public
30 comment or further discussion was heard. Linda made a motion to approve the minutes of the
31 June 12, 2008 meeting, as corrected. Ellen seconded the motion and all were in favor.
32

33 **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

34 **A. Activities Calendar**

- 35 • Kathryn pointed out the changes in the calendar and indicated that the rain date for the
36 dedication of the Veterans' Pavilion at EG Park is **Sunday, October 19**.
- 37 • The CHHPN fall lecture is scheduled for October 16 with the subject of Historic
38 Bridges of Chester County. The lecture will be held at the Borough Hall in
39 Downingtown.

40 **B. Other**

- 41 • There were no other announcements.
42

43 **5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- 44 • The Chairman noted that items usually reported in this section will be interspersed
45 throughout the remaining topics of the meeting.
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2 **6. SUB-DIVISION / LAND DEVELOPMENT**

3 **A. Willis Tract Subdivision - Update**

4 Kathryn reported that an agreement has not been signed in the allotted time; therefore, this
5 property is off the list for subdivision/land development.

6 **B. Clock Tower Farm - Update**

7 Megann reported that the Planning Commission has recommended approval to the Board of
8 Supervisors. Nothing as of yet has been heard on the B & B's conditional use application.
9 Members of the Committee toured the farm on June 26 at the invitation of Leslie Lynch and
10 Rebecca Cook. Photos of the architectural features were taken will be combined on a CD.
11 Copies will be distributed to the committee and the owners. Kathryn stated that Mike
12 Merwin, Building Inspector, has gone through the house and has been working with the
13 owners. Linda indicated that Leslie and Rebecca were given everything the Committee had
14 on file relating to the property. Kathryn suggested that the realtor may have a longer version
15 of the history of the property. Discussion ensued. On behalf of the Committee, Kathryn
16 thanked the Zoning Hearing Board for their work in approving the variances allowing this bed
17 and breakfast.

18 **C. Other**

19 There were no other subdivision/land development projects to be discussed.
20

21 **7. LIAISON REPORTS**

22 **A.** Megann reported that the Planning Commission decided to leave the Historic Preservation
23 Ordinance as is, as well as another section of the Ordinance that allows bed and breakfast
24 hospitality in homes built before 1940. Neither section will be changed to allow for the
25 addition of roads. An applicant for a B&B would be able to apply for a variance of the
26 Ordinance, thus allowing the Township to make decisions on a case by case basis. The
27 Planning Commission is aware of the HC concerns regarding the major roads as indicated in
28 its June letter.

29 **B.** Dolores indicated that the Conservancy Board does not know anything about the chestnut tree
30 project other than they are choosing its placement site. They are assuming that the Historical
31 Commission would take care of everything else. They expressed their unhappiness with the
32 proposed chosen location as it was too wet for the tree. Ben pointed out that Ginnie Newlin of
33 the Conservancy Board actually suggested the location. Dolores stated that chestnut trees are
34 difficult to obtain, and a purchaser has to be put on a waiting list. They are grown only by
35 certain nurseries and are typically released for planting in late October/November. Thereafter,
36 their health is monitored. Ben indicated that Mark Miller had had no luck in finding a grower,
37 and it was suggested that he be in touch with the Conservancy Board regarding placement of
38 tree and nurseries to contact.

39 **C.** Dolores said that 25 to 30 hand hewn beams from the Romansville Meeting House are being
40 offered to the Commission. Storage for these beams is a problem. Since the original contact
41 Mark Miller had with Scott Sanders, nothing has been resolved, and Scott would like the
42 Township's answer as to their disposition by the end of the week of July 14. Don McConathy
43 would consider storing them, short term, in one of his paddocks, but they would be out in the
44 open. It was suggested that they could be covered with a tarp until a permanent solution could
45 be found. Ben was of the opinion that the Township should pass on this offer. If the beams
46 are accepted, Kathryn questioned how they would be moved. Linda felt that unless they are
47 planned for an upcoming project, it is a waste of resources to accept them. Kathryn will
48 follow up with CCHPN contacts to see if anyone has an idea for their use and/or storage.
49 Kathryn will also contact Leslie Lynch at Clock Tower Farm to see if they would be willing
50

1 to offer storage space for the beams. Linda felt that Clock Tower Farm might have a use
2 for them and, if so, they could be in direct contact with Scott.
3

4 **8. OLD BUSINESS**

5 **A. Projects / Task Report**

- 6 • Linda reported on the Images of America project, indicating that she is breaking down
7 the information into 100 year intervals for the years 1700 to 1900, then from 1900 to
8 1929; 1930 to 1959; 1960 to 1979; 1980 to 1999, 2000 to present. To date, Linda has
9 146 pages, not including photos. She is having difficulty ascertaining certain
10 construction dates and is looking to Ed for his help. In response to Linda's inquiry
11 regarding the Cornwallis House, Gary indicated that it was located at Rt. 322 and the Rt.
12 322 Bypass and not in our Township. Discussion ensued regarding the John J. Sullivan
13 property. Rick Smith found the original plans for Hershey's Mill done by Fryberger in
14 1970. Linda suggested that Fryberger might have additional historical information in
15 their files. She asked for help in organizing property descriptions taken from newspapers
16 and demonstrated the difficulty she was having in working with them in their present
17 form. Discussion ensued as to how best to organize them. Ben offered his help and
18 Kathryn offered the Township's resources should he need them. In response to an
19 inquiry from Kathryn, Linda responded that she has changed her mind about compiling a
20 list of photos (150 go 280) in order to give the Committee an idea of what is going to go
21 into the "Images of America" book. Kathryn volunteered her help. Considerable
22 discussion ensued regarding the challenges of storing the photos, with accompanying
23 descriptions, whether on CD or memory stick, and which photo program would best
24 accommodate those needs.
- 25 • Ben asked for input on the construction of the rail fence; particularly, how far should it
26 extend. Discussion ensued. The committee agreed on five sections of rail fence on each
27 side of the entrance to the Wetlands Boardwalk entrance. Ben said that he had a visit
28 from a care giver who works for a firm that provides after school activities at the
29 Sugartown Elementary School. She feels that the Plank House and Blacksmith Shop is a
30 wonderful educational tool for visiting children. Discussion followed regarding reaching
31 out to other after school organizations in the area. Kathryn mentioned that Gary Green
32 from the YMCA has expressed an interest in working with the Historic Commission in
33 this regard once the new facility in East Goshen opens.

34 **B. Property Research**

35 Ed distributed Chain of Title reports on properties at 1468 Morestein Road, 1523 and 1523A
36 Richard Drive, and 600 North Chester Road. He talked with the owners of 600 North Chester
37 Road and they indicated that the house next to them was older than their home. Ed stated that
38 the tract was one willed to Joseph Sharpless in 1873. Considerable discussion ensued
39 regarding the age of the Clock Tower house and barn.

40 **C. Living History Day**

41 Kathryn referenced a sheet listing possible activities which may or may not be included. Ben
42 explained that John Gras, "John the Carpenter", does colonial interpretations of carpentry. He
43 will be coming from Bucks County, and the Committee agreed to pay his \$100.00 fee. Ellen
44 indicated that Noah Lewis would not be available for "Ned Hector". Ben suggested fence
45 building as a scheduled activity. Norm Glass, Bob Klinger, Fran Wilson Mike McGuinness,
46 Jim and Maurine Falcone, and Kim Keiser will participate. Dolores suggested that a schedule
47 be put together for "Children's Colonial Games" run by Bob Heubner. Ellen stated that
48 George Tolton might be able to do "Colonial Dancing", and she will contact him in this
49 regard. Ben will put "Conestoga Wagon" and "Wheelwright Shop Area" on his schedule.

1 The "Garden" was discussed and will remain on the schedule with Linda Polishuk as a
2 possible helper. Kathryn will make contact with Eva Abbot, the Clerk of the Goshen
3 Meeting, recommended by the Headmaster at Goshen Friends regarding the "Goshen Friends
4 Tours". She will also contact Sarah Credeur re "Goshen Grange". Ellen will contact Becky
5 MacDonald and Nikki Nelson, "Lace Ladies". Ellen will call Tim Seaschuldt concerning
6 "Musket Drills" to ascertain if he will be available. Volunteers are scheduled for "Plank
7 House Tours". Nancy Daversa has committed to either "Quilting" and/or something else.
8 "Revolutionary War Trunks" are reserved. Discussion ensued regarding soap making and the
9 use of lye in this activity. It was decided to eliminate this category and to add "Children's"
10 Clothes". The idea of taking photos of the children in colonial dress was discussed, i.e., type
11 of camera, on-site printing, Linda suggested it might be more cost effective to e-mail photo
12 prints to that person's home. Dolores will investigate means and cost of the photo activity.
13 Sandy Snyder will probably represent the Conservancy Board on the "Wetlands Boardwalk"
14 activity. Kathryn will talk to Charlie Lange about reenactments. Living History Day will be
15 on the agenda for the August meeting. Dolores submitted her invoice for material for the
16 children's outfits, and she showed a girl's pinafore to the Committee.

17 **D. Historical Section on Township Web Site**

18 This is in progress. Linda commented that Terry Bonenberger is looking for photos and
19 additional subject matter. Kathryn said that the disk is now available from Living History
20 Day, and some of those photos might be used on the web site. Kathryn will contact Dolores,
21 Ben, and Sue to set up a time for further discussion.

22 **E. Malvern Town Tours and Village Walks**

23 Kathryn distributed an e-mail from Lynne Hockenberry outlining various roles in the event.
24 An updated script was attached. Ellen explained that site guides, wearing red shirts, will give
25 a talk and answer questions at that particular site using the provided information. Tour
26 guides, wearing white shirts, will move people between two sites, and blue shirted tour
27 helpers will assist with registration, refreshments, parking, and answering questions. Ben will
28 move to the list of helpers and Linda indicated that if the weather is very hot, she would prefer
29 to be indoors. Dolores and Connie will participate in the walkthrough on Sunday, and Sue
30 and Linda will let Kathryn know which day they will attend. Ben and Megann cannot do
31 either day.

32 **F. Updates on Other Activities**

33 Updates are included under other headings.

34 **G. "Someday List" Additions**

35 Dolores suggested putting posters for Living History Day in places like the WAWA. The ad
36 could include times of planned activities. Kathryn has spoken with various schools seeking
37 permission to have flyers distributed to the children to take home to their parents.

38 **H. Dedication of New Pavilion in the Park**

39 The dedication is scheduled for the same time as the Pumpkin Festival on Saturday October
40 18 with a rain date of Sunday October 19. Kathryn will touch base with Ann Marie Moore
41 who will get volunteers from Park & Rec to meet with Kathryn, Sue, Ellen, and Ben.

42 **I. Goshen Fair Booth**

43 The Committee could not participate this year because of other commitments.

44 **J. Education Center Concept at Blacksmith Shop & Plank House**

45 Ben indicated that a number of visitors this summer indicated they were impressed with the
46 shop and Plank House. Kathryn said that the Supervisors are becoming more aware of what
47 the Historic Commission is doing.

48 **K. Working with Owners of Historic Resources**

1 Kathryn will contact Kathy and Frank Hoffman and will meet with them before the August
2 meeting.

3 **L. Other Old Business**

- 4 • Kathryn has nothing new to report on the State Ethics Form. Linda encourages everyone
5 to fill out the form as it is a State requirement.
- 6 • Kathryn reported that on June 18 she handed out certificates of recognition from EGT to
7 students at the Honors Assembly at Fugett Middle School who participated in National
8 History Day on state and national levels. The teachers and principal expressed their
9 thanks and indicated that they liked the involvement of their students with community
10 groups. The teachers involved with National History Day will be meeting with Kathryn
11 sometime over the summer to discuss cooperative programming and the possibility of
12 sending their students to the Township as volunteers. 120 students are involved in other
13 Chester County historic site volunteering.
- 14 • At the CCHPN annual Volunteer Recognition o June 25, East Goshen township was
15 awarded a Certificate of Accomplishment for completing the historic resource atlas.
16 Attending were Sue Ciorletti and Joe McDonough along with Kathryn. The County will
17 provide an update of the map with all of the Township resources on it. Bridges will also
18 be included on the map. Kathryn pointed out that the number of historic resources varied
19 greatly between townships depending on the amount of development and build-out.
- 20 • Kathryn has a contact at PHMC regarding the insurance issue at the Plank House and
21 Blacksmith Shop and is awaiting a return call. It was pointed out that the contents are
22 insured only to a total value of \$10,000. PHMC will give guidance on this issue as items
23 must be appraised. Linda suggested that this falls under the Township's purview, and the
24 Township should arrange the appraisal. Ellen feels that the choice of appraiser is very
25 important and spoke of her experience in this regard. Kathryn, with the assistance of
26 PHMC, will do some fact finding regarding appraisers and pass the information along to
27 the Township
- 28 • Ellen stated that the Municipal Authority received a letter from the State informing them
29 that an archeological study must be done near the Lochwood Chase plant. The State feels
30 there was a possibility that the site might contain Indian artifacts
- 31 • A letter to residents dated July 3 regarding the bridge on Reservoir Road has been posted
32 on the Township web site.
- 33 • There is no further information on Hershey's Mill Dam activities.
- 34 • Linda suggested that a search for her replacement should begin as she plans to be away
35 for six months of the year.

36
37 **9. NEW BUSINESS**

38 **A. Review Expenses/Approve Invoices/Discuss Budget as Needed**

39 Nothing discussed

40 **B. Second Quarter Review of Goals and Objectives**

41 Kathryn distributed the first and second quarter review of the 2008 Goals and Objectives of
42 the Historical Commission. She asked for changes and the Committee responded. The
43 corrected document will be submitted to the Township on July 11, 2008. Discussion ensued
44 regarding space in the Newsletter.

45 **C. Other New Business**

- 46 • Kathryn indicated that Resolution 08-50, outlining the policy governing grant
47 applications by Township Authorities, Boards and Commissions, will be the subject of a
48 future meeting.

- 1 • Notice was received that at the Planning Commission Meeting on July 2nd and a Public
2 Hearing on August 5th, T-Mobile Northeast will make presentations regarding their
3 conditional use application to attach a wireless communication antenna to an existing
4 utility pole.
5

6 **10. CORRESPONDENCE** – No additional correspondence.
7

8 **11. PUBLIC COMMENT** – None
9

10 **12 ADJOURNMENT**

11 Linda made a motion to adjourn. Dolores seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the
12 meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.
13

14
15 Respectfully submitted by: _____
16 Mary Lou Knight, Recording Secretary