

EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 9, 2008

The East Goshen Township Historical Commission held their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, October 9 at 7:00pm at the East Goshen Township Building. In attendance were: Chairman Kathryn Yahraes, Vice Chairman Connie Bain, and members Ellen Carmody, Sue Ciorletti, Dolores Higgins, and Ben Rohrbeck. Also in attendance were Gary Althouse (Building Inspector), Megann Hedgecock (Planning Commission), Ed Lendrat (Historical Commission Research Volunteer), and residents Fran & Shirley Beck and John Tulk. Member Linda Gordon was an excused absence.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. MINUTES

Corrections were made to the minutes of September 11. No public comment or further discussion was heard. Ben moved to approve the corrected minutes of September 11, 2008. Sue seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Activities Calendar

- In Linda's absence, Kathryn will schedule a thank you party for the volunteers who worked during Living History Day.
- Ellen shared that the Winfield Scott Hancock Society in Montgomery County will be holding tours of the Montgomery Cemetery on October 29 at 12:00 Noon and 5:30pm. The cost is only \$5 and Ellen said it is a very worthwhile and entertaining event.
- Because several members have conflicts with dates in October, the Cleanup Day will tentatively be scheduled for November 1.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Kathryn reported the following:

- She will meet with Micki Sugar on October 10 at 9:00am to discuss having him make wooden muskets in the Hershey's Mill woodshop.
- She purchased a 13-lb chunk of black walnut wood from John Hearn Woods, to be used for making replacement handles for the two 2-man saws.
- Now that she is wintering in Florida, Linda Gordon is willing to resign her position with the Historical Commission pending selection of a suitable replacement. The Board told Kathryn that Linda will need to submit a conditional letter of resignation to the Supervisors before they can start interviewing candidates. Kathryn said there are already a few people interested in the position, including Linda Hicks. Linda Gordon plans to continue be active with the Historical

1 Commission during the months she is not in Florida. Kathryn advised members that if they
2 know of anyone who might be interested, that person should send a letter of intent along with a
3 resume to the Historical Commission.
4

5 6. **HERSHEY'S MILL DAM**

6 A. PowerPoint Presentation

7 Jane Fava of the Conservancy Board explained that she would be showing Commission
8 members the PowerPoint presentation that Rettew Associates prepared for the Supervisors,
9 showing the various options for the dam. Jane said her area of expertise is streams and
10 watersheds, not engineering, so there would probably be some questions she could not
11 answer.
12

13 Kathryn noted that the Supervisors plan to hold a public meeting on this topic October 28 at
14 8:00pm. They will probably not make a decision at that time.
15

16 Jane stated that DEP recently informed the Township that the dam is a "regulated dam,"
17 meaning it must meet the 100-year storm requirements. The dam either must be upgraded to
18 meet the requirements or it must be breached.
19

20 Fran Beck asked how old the dam is and Kathryn said it dates back to 1883 or so.
21

22 Jane went through the slides which showed the following options:
23

24 **Option 1** – add 200 extra feet of concrete spillway side-by-side with the existing stone
25 spillway.

26 **Option 2** – make a second spillway of articulated block pavers that will be covered with
27 grass.

28 **Option 3** – breach the dam and restore the stream. The stone spillway would be removed, as
29 would the excess sediment that has built up over the years. Kathryn noted that the
30 Supervisors plan to have the sediment tested, and they plan to get estimates on sediment
31 removal.
32

33 Jane showed a slide giving the pros (7) and cons (1) of breaching the dam.
34

35 Ben said it's pointless for the Historical Commission to discuss all the engineering details of
36 the project when that's not the Commission's bailiwick. Kathryn said she wanted the
37 Commission to see the full presentation so members would have a basis of understanding the
38 issues as they relate to their own charge of preserving historic resources. She explained that
39 she asked Jane to give the presentation since Jane could provide information that she
40 (Kathryn) could not.
41

42 Jane noted that no decision has been made by the Supervisors regarding which option they
43 plan to go with.
44

45 Resident John Tulk said the dam and is a very symbolic, important piece of East Goshen
46 history and he would hate to lose it. Everything possible should be done to save and protect
47 it.
48

49 Kathryn said it was disturbing to the Historical Commission and some others that during the

1 Supervisors' meeting where this presentation was given, the emphasis was on breaching the
2 dam with very little attention paid to ways it might be preserved. It's sad there are no grants
3 available to help preserve the dam, yet there is plenty of grant money available to help pay for
4 breaching it.
5

6 Dolores asked if there is a way to keep the spillway and the viewscape intact. Mr. Tulk
7 suggested the dam could possibly be breached in another location, and maybe water could be
8 pumped over the spillway if necessary to keep the aesthetic. Mr. Tulk said he agreed with
9 Kathryn that it's a shame other options weren't discussed at the Supervisors' meeting,
10 because surely there are more than options that the three presented by Rettew.
11

12 Jane Fava said her chief concern is that the stream be properly restored if the dam is breached.
13 She said Yerkes had originally made recommendations for so-called restoration that were
14 unacceptable in her opinion, and that's why the Supervisors hired Rettew. Rettew has
15 biologists on staff who are expert in the field of dam breaching and stream restoration.
16

17 **B. Discussion**

18 Ben moved that a HRIS be done on the effect of modifying or removing the dam or historic
19 structures within 250 feet of the dam, with regard to the East Goshen Historic Ordinance.
20 Ellen seconded the motion.
21

22 Dolores asked who can prepare an HRIS, and how long does it take to get one. Ben said
23 various firms can do them. Kathryn said the cost varies. Dolores said it's important to do an
24 HRIS to make sure all options are considered. Ellen said the Township owes it to the
25 residents to have an HRIS done.
26

27 Resident Fran Beck expressed concern that not many residents received the 1,000-ft letter sent
28 by the Township on this issue, and therefore not many people are aware the dam is at risk.
29 Kathryn said she would ask Rick Smith for a list of the folks who were mailed the letter.
30 Gary said the Township usually measures the 1,000-ft boundary from the edge of the property
31 line of the location in question. Resident John Tulk asked if a letter could be sent to the
32 Hershey's Mill Masters Association alerting them to this issue. Kathryn said she could send
33 one.
34

35 Kathryn said Wise Associates is one local firm that does HRIS, but others will need to be
36 contacted to provide quotes. She noted the money would have to come from the
37 Commission's budget.
38

39 Ben shared that the dam is a Class-II historic resource, and he has a list of all the resources
40 that are considered part of the dam.
41

42 Ben said another option to consider would be filling in the pond.
43

44 Ellen noted that the DEP website is very frustrating and gives very little information to
45 anyone trying to research their regulations.
46

47 There was no further discussion or public comment. The Commission members voted
48 unanimously to approve the motion for an HRIS.
49

1 Kathryn said the group would need to work on contacting various firms and getting estimates,
2 and said she would check the budget. Ellen suggested contacting the Brandywine
3 Conservancy for a recommendation of a good firm to use. Kathryn agreed and said she would
4 call John Shook.

5
6 Ben said he wants to see an engineering study on the potential damage a breach would cause
7 to the historic structures on the mill property and wondered if another motion to this effect
8 would be appropriate.

9
10 Kathryn noted that on April 10, 2008 the Historical Commission discussed ways to preserve
11 the viewscape of the dam, and the discussion was recorded in the minutes.

12
13 Kathryn suggested the Commission members read the information she emailed them about
14 Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

15
16 Ellen suggested going forward with Ben's initial motion for now, and taking one step at a
17 time. The other members were in agreement with this suggestion.

18
19 Kathryn said she was sure that Karen Marshall from Chester County would work with the
20 Commission on this issue, and that Jane Fava will be able to provide some expertise up to a
21 point, after which she may have to be compensated.

22
23 The Commission members agreed to recommend the Supervisors strongly consider
24 undertaking an engineering impact study to determine potential effects on the property and
25 structures surrounding the dam. Kathryn will send a letter to this effect.

26
27 Ellen said she would contact Ron Bailey to get his input on this issue. Kathryn said she
28 would discuss it with Senya Isayeff.

29
30 Ellen stated that the Commission has a duty to take all possible measures, using the tools at
31 their disposal, to save this important historic resource.

32
33 The Commission members then looked at the schematic of the dam.

34
35 Kathryn requested that other Commission members work on gathering information about the
36 breached dam at Monticello, which might be helpful for this project.

37 38 **7. SUB-DIVISION / LAND DEVELOPMENT**

39 **A. Clock Tower Farm - Update**

40 Time did not allow for discussion of this item.

41 42 **8. LIAISON REPORTS**

43 **A. Updates on Activities/Reports not yet E-mailed.**

44 Dolores reported that the Conservancy Board has finalized their list of trees, with the
45 assistance of Rick Smith.

46 47 **9. OLD BUSINESS**

48 **A. Living History Day**

49 This item will be discussed at the November meeting.

1 **B. Images of America Book**

2 Kathryn reported that everything has been submitted to the publisher, Arcadia. Her contact
3 there is Erin Vosgien. In order to qualify for a 50% discount the books must be ordered in
4 quantities of 400 or greater. Since the books will then cost \$11 each this brings the total
5 initial outlay to \$4,400, which will be recouped as the books sell. The retail price as marked
6 on the cover will be \$21.99. Kathryn would like every member of the Commission to be
7 involved in checking the proof. The books will be published in March or April. It will only
8 take three weeks for reprint orders to be published. Arcadia will provide marketing materials
9 such as posters, PDF files of the cover, bookmarks, and flyers. Kathryn will be working with
10 Arcadia's Regional Sales Manager, Jim Skinner, on placing the book for sale in local retail
11 outlets. Kathryn said there are many sales and marketing details to work out but Arcadia
12 advises its clients to worry about that after the proof has been reviewed and submitted for
13 publication. Ben noted that the retail price of \$21.99 means that with tax, the book will cost
14 \$23.31, which will make cash sales difficult. A round number would be much easier to work
15 with. Kathryn said she would discuss this with Deb Beury. Dolores recommended selling the
16 book at the Pepper Mill since it is mentioned in the book. Connie reported that Linda
17 Waterhouse-Koski might be interested in buying a case of books to sell in the Tory Inne.
18 Kathryn suggested that local realtors be contacted, as the book would make a nice thank-you
19 gift for clients who buy homes in East Goshen. Ben said the Commission will need to decide
20 how much to sell the books for to businesses and individuals that would re-sell them, such as
21 Wawa, the Pepper Mill, and Linda Waterhouse-Koski.. Kathryn asked the members to review
22 the marketing plan provided by Arcadia to more fully discuss this topic at the next meeting.
23

24 **C. Dedication of New Pavilion in the Park**

25 Kathryn distributed a draft program for the dedication ceremony. Since the AmeriKids are
26 available that day, the members agreed to have them sing three songs at various points during
27 the program. Kathryn will email a to-do list to everyone.
28

29 **D. Other Projects / Task Report**

30 No other projects or reports were discussed.
31

32 **E. Property Research**

33 Ed Lendrat distributed copies of his latest research, which will be discussed at the November
34 meeting.
35

36 **F. Other Old Business**

37 Ben distributed a sketch of the wall display he has in mind for the tools not being used. He
38 also distributed a sample showing how he proposes to organize the clipping file, which
39 contains 900+ items. He asked that members review both items and provide him with
40 feedback at the next meeting.
41

42 **10. NEW BUSINESS**

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

- 44 • Ben would like the four historic maps he donated to be framed. Kathryn will look at the
45 budget.
- 46 • Kathryn reported that Linda Gordon spent \$25.19 on a flash drive for the Images of
47 America book, and an additional \$19.99 on a second flash drive that was needed. In
48 addition, Kathryn spent \$9.54 on the black walnut wood for the saw handles. Connie
49 made a motion to approve all three expenditures. Ben seconded and the vote was

1 unanimous. There were no other comments.

2
3 **B. Goal Review – Third Quarter**

4 Kathryn will email this report to everyone.

5
6 **C. Lawsuits**

7 Kathryn noted that three lawsuits have been filed against the Township in regard to the Deer
8 Management Program – the emergency injunction (which was denied), the procedural
9 resolution suit, and a new federal lawsuit, on which she has no details.

10
11 **D. Jim McRee**

12 Kathryn reported that Jim McRee plans to resign from the Planning Commission at the end of
13 the year to concentrate on his duties with the Deer Management Committee.

14
15 **11. CORRESPONDENCE**

16 Kathryn noted the two Conditional Use Application letters that were in the packet, for MetroPCS
17 and CTDI.

18
19 **11. PUBLIC COMMENT – None**

20
21 **12 ADJOURNMENT**

22 Dolores made a motion to adjourn. Ellen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the
23 meeting adjourned at 10:20pm.

24
25
26 Respectfully submitted by: _____

27 Anne Meddings, Recording Secretary
28