

EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 13, 2008

The East Goshen Township Historical Commission held their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, November 13, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the East Goshen Township Building. In attendance were: Chair Kathryn Yahraes and members Ellen Carmody, Connie Bain, Sue Ciorletti, Dolores Higgins and Ben Rohrbeck. Excused absences by Linda Gordon. Also in attendance were: Gary Althouse (Township Building Inspector), Ed Lendratt (Historical Commission Research Volunteer), Megann Hedgecock (Planning Commission), and Ruth Scadding (Park & Recreation).

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:10PM.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. MINUTES

Ben moved to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2008 meeting as corrected. Delores seconded the motion. No public comment or further discussion was heard. The motion passed unanimously.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Calendar

- The Volunteer Thank You at Linda's house on 12/7/08 is tentatively rescheduled for 1/25/09.
- A draft of the 2009 calendar will be reviewed at December's meeting.

B. Other – None.

E. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT –

A. Kathryn thanked everyone for their help during the 11/1 Clean-up Day. A 1/2 mile section on the north side of Rt. 352 still needs to be done; Kathryn, Connie and Delores will coordinate this clean-up.

B. Kathryn announced that Connie Bain will not serve her 2nd term on the board due to other commitments. Connie will continue to volunteer and was thanked for her service; she will be missed.

F. SUB-DIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT

A. Gary reported that nothing was currently on the docket. Clocktower Farms has opened a Café on Rt. 252.

G. LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Conservancy Board – Dolores reported that the number of trees going in on E. Boot Road along the path were discussed; it is unclear when the Y trees will be planted.
- B. Municipal Authority – Ellen read a brief summary of the meeting; there were no questions.
- C. Planning Commission – Connie emailed the report; there were no questions or comments.
- D. Park & Recreation – Ben emailed the report; there were no questions or comments.
- E. Board of Supervisors – Kathryn reported that on-going projects were discussed including 5% budget cutbacks for 2009, sewer funding, mass notification email and telephone notifications, the Line Road walking path and HVAC bids. They also discussed the Y trees and the E. Boot Road planting, the Hershey's Mill pond and the dam. Kathryn will email a copy of the minutes from the 10/28/08 meeting to all members for review.

H. OLD BUSINESS

A. Dam – Kathryn has contacted 3 groups regarding the Historical Impact Resource Study. Bob Wise was asked to submit a proposal but is concerned that the dam itself is not listed on the

55 National Historic Resource List. Ben mentioned that the dam is not historic, rather the mill. Bob
56 does not foresee any impact on the surrounding area. The good news is they have 1 to 1.5 years to
57 identify a viable solution however the DEP wants the trees on the top of the dam removed
58 immediately.

59
60 The BOS meeting on 10/28 was attended by 50 residents, during which the BOS agreed to
61 consider additional options, take measurements for the secondary spillway, and several residents
62 offered to help with the project. The BOS may want to maintain the dam and suggested that
63 possibly a 501(c)3 be formed. Also Karen Martynick writes grants and offered to help. More
64 directions from the BOS is needed before moving forward.

65
66 Kathryn received information from the Corp. of Engineers and PHMC; the HC needs to update
67 photos, the historical survey and research family history relating to the mill and surrounding
68 homes on Hershey's Mill Road as they could be original tenant houses. The area is recognized as
69 an historic district and although it is eligible, it is not on the Historic Registry. Neil Deremer has
70 good strategies that would help the HC accomplish these goals.

71
72 Members discussed the \$100K potential grant from American Rivers. Of the 3 options given
73 during the American Rivers presentation, none were in favor of maintaining the dam. Members
74 agree the biggest problem is that the dam is a secondary resource. Breaching the dam would
75 eliminate DEP inspections and dredging requirements. Removal of the trees on top of the dam
76 may leave the dam weakened. The DEP evaluation noted that a natural breach of the dam would
77 result in loss of life or immediate damage to properties in the area. Members agree more research
78 needs to be done and assigned areas to be addressed:

- 79
- 80 • Funding – Kathryn
- 81 • Research – Ben & Ed
- 82 • Community Organization – Ellen & Connie
- 83 • Legal Issues –
- 84 • 501(c)3 – Kathryn
- 85 • Publicity (internal/external) – Sue & Delores
- 86 • Alternatives – Ben
- 87

88 Members agree to hold a workshop meeting on 1/10/09, immediately following the annual ABC
89 Township Planning Session, to discuss the matters further. It was noted that the Conservancy
90 Board's official position is to breach the dam.

- 91
- 92 B. Fall Living History Day Evaluation – Delores said the picture station was not as successful as she
93 hoped (due to "technical difficulties") and suggested adding additional tents and signage;
94 members agreed. Members discussed providing a handout map. Kathryn suggested investing in
95 photo printing hardware to allow on-site, take home pictures from the event. A co-op with CVS
96 was discussed.
 - 97 C. Images of America – the photos are in order and the gallery sheets are back at Arcadia
98 Publishing; marketing strategies need to be worked out and Arcadia will be available to discuss after
99 12/1. Funding needs to be finalized with the BOS. Members agreed it would be good to
100 coordinate the premier with the Spring Living History Day if possible.
 - 101 D. 2009 Calendar – dates have been filled in for the most part. The 200th Anniversary for
102 Germantown will be 9/19/09 and Chadds Ford/Brandywine have events on 9/5-6/09; the Fall
103 Living History Day should be scheduled around these popular events. Ellen noted that a huge
104 celebration is planned for Brandywine Creek State Park in 2010. Ben said they should consider
105 alternate activities; Ellen suggested the Colonial Conjuror or George Vinter Sr. If they have to
106 pay for entertainment, more effort should be put into advertising. Members also discussed
107 developing a children's program, using British instead of English soldiers or having West Chester

108 Area School District students conduct games, make costumes and run a program for school credit.
109 Ellen noted that varying programs keeps people coming back year after year.

110 E. New Pavilion Dedication – Overall members agreed it was very successful; the displays would
111 have worked better if not placed behind the speakers and some of the speeches were a little long.
112 Additional seating and more time to advertise would have been nice too. The Chaplin comments
113 and photos will be added to the website and thank you notes will be sent out. Joe McDonough
114 suggested putting together an “Honor Roll” of current staff, ABC members and family with
115 military records, to be kept on the website. The HC will again work with the P&R on a ceremony
116 for the “permanent markers” perhaps to coordinate with Memorial Day 2009. The donation of
117 trees and benches will continue to be encouraged as part of the township memorial program.

118 F. Other –

- 119 i. The saw handles are done at Hershey’s Mill and need to be picked up.
- 120 ii. Musket samples need to be reviewed.
- 121 iii. The wall display in the Blacksmith Shop for the tools was approved by
122 members; no acrylic cover is needed.
- 123 iv. Ben showed a sample of the newspaper Clipping File and members agreed
124 they should be copied on paper and cross-filed for each historic resource.

125

126 I. NEW BUSINESS

127 A. School Tour – 18 children from Goshen Friends School will be visiting the Blacksmith Shop &
128 Plank House on 11/18; volunteers are needed.

129 B. 1864 Original Pen & Ink Drawing – was donated to the township and will be mounted/framed.

130 C. Property Research Update – Ed distributed Dates of Construction summary reports for 1507 E.
131 Grand Oak Lane, 1610 Hunters Circle and 1740 Hunters Circle, as well as a summary of “The
132 Ashbridges of Goshen.”

133 D. Invoices – none.

134 E. 2009 Budget – the budget has been submitted to the BOS and will be open to public comment on
135 12/16.

136 F. 2009 Goals & Objectives – members reviewed the listed and discussed were to add the dam issue.
137 Because the dam needs to be addressed within the next 18 months, members agreed to list it
138 under Immediate Goals as “Work with township officials, community members and organizations
139 to find innovative solutions to save the Hershey’s Mill Dam that will meet the DEP guidelines
140 while preserving the integrity of the Hershey’s Mill Historic District including the historic
141 viewscape as a secondary historic resource.” Members will review the list again in December.

142 G. Correspondences – the Chalfont sign application goes before the BOS on 11/18 and ZHB on
143 11/20. A thank you note from Bruce Napp was received by the BOS, thanking the HC for their
144 participation in the Paoli Illumination.

145

146 J. PUBLIC COMMENT – none

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148 K. ADJOURNMENT

149 Ellen made a motion to adjourn. Ben seconded the motion. No public comment. The motion carried
150 unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

151

152 Respectfully submitted by: _____

153

Tracie Hill, Recording Secretary