

EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 12, 2009

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49

The East Goshen Township Historical Commission held their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the East Goshen Township Building. In attendance were: Chairman Kathryn Yahraes, and members Dolores Higgins, Ben Rohrbeck, Jason Young and Joe Zug. Excused absences were Sue Ciorletti and Ellen Carmody. Also in attendance were: Gary Althouse (Township Building Inspector), Ed Lendrat (Historical Commission Research Volunteer), Joe McDonough, (Board of Supervisors Liaison), Dana Pizarro (Municipal Authority) and Chuck Proctor (Planning Commission Liaison).

1 & 2. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The chairman called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. The chairman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. MINUTES

January 8 minutes were accepted as corrected and approved.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Changes to the 2009 Activity Calendar are marked in bold print. Conestoga Questors group was explained. They will be touring the Plank House and Blacksmith shop on March 12 at 10:00 am. Volunteers are needed to help with the tour.

B. Q&A

Kathryn explained to new members some of the groups and their functions. She noted that Jane Davidson’s mother died and memorial service will be held. Jane is the former HPO (Historical Preservation Officer for Chester County. Jim Falcone’s father died. Jim and his wife Maurine volunteer for the Living History days. Sue Ciorletti will take a leave of absence from the Historical Commission due to her husband’s illness.

5. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

No additional information to report.

6. SUB-DIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT

No Report

7. LIAISON REPORTS

A & B. Jason Young and Chuck Proctor. Jason reported on 2/4/09 Planning Commission meeting. There was some discussion on Malvern Institute’s pending approval. PALCS – submitted a conditional use application and proposed zoning ordinance amendment. Chuck is concerned about the traffic flow into and out of the former IBM building. Students will be dropped off or driving and will result in a different configuration from office parking outside building. Student population could be up to 250 eventually. Chuck looked at open space for student use and the school’s possible expansion. There is concern about the historic area at intersection of Rt. 352 and Paoli Pike being maintained should PALCS expand and purchase adjacent properties. T-Mobile withdrew its application to install a cell-phone pole in front of Greystone on Rt. 352.

1 Joe McDonough (BOS Liaison) stressed the need for long term planning. Kathryn stated all goals
2 and objects have been correlated since 2005. We need to look at the Blacksmith Shop and Plank
3 House for repairs to be made. We need to look at long-range costs for options on dam problem. The
4 last repairs were done in 1972, and permanent repairs should be made so we don't have to revisit
5 this issue every few years. It was stressed that all Township programs must pay for themselves.
6

7 Conservancy – no report as Dolores was not at the 1/12 meeting. She will contact a member of the
8 CB, get an update and mail it to the HC members. The BOS decided to distribute hard copy packets
9 to ABC members; liaisons will receive their packets via email. Members were reminded to go to
10 the website to look at agendas and past minutes of other ABCs
11

12 **8. OLD BUSINESS**

- 13 A. History Day Competition – Immaculata March 7. Jason and Chuck volunteered to be judges in
14 addition to those who have already committed to help.
15
16 B. Images of America Book update – nothing new to report
17
18 C. Hershey's Mill Dam – extensive time was spent on discussion and a presentation by Dana Pizarro
19 (Municipal Authority member) in a Special Report on Hershey's Mill Dam. A survey needs to be
20 done on the dam, which was inspected years ago. A site visit by his engineering firm generated a
21 presentation on many of the areas around the dam – spillway, repairs to the dam crest, and
22 downstream pool, and low flow conduit outlet, raceway under the house, low flow culvert,
23 downstream slope, crest, and possible swimming pool problems with water underneath it. Gary was
24 asked to find out when the pool at the dam area was built. Orange survey stakes are visible in the
25 erosion area. Trees **MUST** come down to prevent an accidental dam breach. A major concern of
26 residents and township is the sediment with possible toxicity from chemicals, pesticides, etc. This
27 sediment must be studied and test results evaluated. Open space will need to be made available for
28 a staging area for dam work once it begins.
29

30 Options for Dam upgrades:

- 31 a. Add 200 ft of concrete spillway
32 b. New spillway of articulated concrete block (ACB)
33 c. Breach dam and restore stream
34 d. Lower dam and leave in place

35 Other options – preserve spillway and viewscape

- 36 Pump stream around spillway
37 Appropriate stream restoration
38 Removal/disposal of sediment
39

40 Comments: Concern about stream restoration costs. There was a discussion on options including
41 cost effective options for the Township. Spillway or entire dam possibly could be lowered. Dana
42 advised looking at DEP report to make a good decision on how to proceed. Breaching the dam is
43 not necessarily the most efficient way of proceeding. HC's charge is to maintain historic integrity
44 within Township. There are more options and HC needs to consider them. In the near term, we
45 should be proactive while reaching a decision, get the trees off the dam as soon as possible. Repair
46 eroded areas; put an emergency action plan in place in case of severe storm or hurricane. Keep
47 DEP apprised of progress. The Brandolini letter was noted on the pond analysis. Group should
48 brainstorm some solutions and possibly hold a workshop between now and the next meeting on the
49 dam. Commission wants to insure township looks at all options within cost parameters, which
50 range from \$100,000 to \$1 Million. We need to quantify options. Kathryn thanked Dana for his

1 thorough presentation for HM dam. It was very informational and HC appreciates the volunteer
2 time given by him and some of his associates.
3

4 Meeting notes from 1/10/09 workshop on HMD concerning discussion/questions by Dana, Ben,
5 Dolores and Ellen were distributed.
6

7 Fund Raising – Chuck Proctor stated that Friends of Historic Goshenville can resurrect 501C3 for
8 fund raising for HC projects and dam work, and also funnel grant money into other areas.
9

10 D. Living History Day – June 6. Tim Seagraves will do musket drills. Kathryn is to pick up ax
11 handles from the Woodshop at Hershey’s Mill Village.
12

13 E. Veterans Memorial Pavilion –Discussion on what kind of plaque should be placed there. Ben
14 suggested waiting a year or two to get a nice plaque in brass, stone, or other material because of current
15 budget constraints. The question needs to be answered about what kind of marker is wanted. We need
16 to get ideas on what P&R wants, and come back to HC with ideas/recommendations.
17

18 F. Other Project / Task Reports – none
19

20 G. Individual Family Research – Ed Lendrat
21 Ed will concentrate on parcels 1034, 1050, 1020, 1013, 1010 Hershey’s Mill Road and 980
22 Greenhill Road because of the Dam project.
23

24 H. Other Old Business -none
25

26 **9. NEW BUSINESS**

27 A. Review of expenses / Approve Invoices / discuss Budget as needed – no discussion.

28 B. Springhouse at Marydell – Dolores presented pictures of the structure that were taken when she and
29 Kathryn visited the structure. Discussion centered on the original purpose and historic time frame in
30 which it was built. It was determined that it was probably built after 1912 as there is concrete block in
31 the building. The structure is in disrepair, with overgrowth and graffiti and kids have been known to
32 have drinking parties there. The goal is to prevent further damage by possibly putting up a cyclone
33 fence around it until studies and research can determine what it was and when it was built, if it should
34 be demolished or preserved. Ben thinks it possibly was a root cellar or a hunting blind and not a
35 springhouse. Ed will call Jim Jenkins to see if he knows anything about its history. HC will do a
36 history search, but the structure needs to be dealt with soon to determine how to proceed. Ben moved
37 that the structure located at Marydell be temporarily secured by a cyclone fence to insure safety and
38 prevent further destruction until the historical significance is ascertained by the HC. Dolores seconded
39 the motion, which was passed. Kathryn will send a letter to Rick Smith, Township Mgr, and Anne
40 Marie Fletcher-Moore, Chair of P&R board. Ed will research who was living on the property in the
41 1920s. There is now no house nearby.
42

43 Chuck Proctor reported an exciting project underway at Coventry Presbyterian Church in Thornbury,
44 Chester County. On the premises are a farm and barn which is thought to go back to the 1910-1930
45 period. It is very interesting architecturally as the barn is U-shaped and of French design/origin. The
46 church has done a spectacular renovation to both. He urged HC to go out to see this unique project.
47 An easement was given for a bike/walking trail in front of the buildings. Chuck will let the HC know
48 when an open house is scheduled. Kathryn asked Chuck to tell the HC about his background. He is an
49 attorney, an adjunct professor at Widener University, on the Planning Commission and does work on
50 land use development.

1
2 Kathryn praised the commission for the dedicated quality of its volunteers as a good example of
3 township wide responsibility. This is an excellent group of volunteers helping out HC. She also
4 emphasized the importance of liaison groups working closely with commissions so that history going
5 back is available to them.

6
7 **10 and 11.** There was no correspondence or additional public comment.

8
9 **12. Adjournment**

10 Ben moved to adjourn the meeting, with Dolores seconding the motion. The meeting was adjourned at
11 9:50 pm.

12
13 Respectfully submitted,

14
15
16 Barbara Woodin
17 Recording Secretary

18
19
20