

EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MAY 14, 2009

FINAL

The East Goshen Township Historical Commission held their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the East Goshen Township Building. In attendance were: Chairman Kathryn Yahraes, Vice Chairman Ellen Carmody and members Dolores Higgins, Ben Rohrbeck, Sue Ciorletti and Jason Young. Excused absence: Joe Zug. Also in attendance were: Gary Althouse (Township Building Inspector) and Ruth Scadding (Park & Recreation liaison). Guest – Bill Scheffey, 1639 Christine Lane.

1 & 2. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. MINUTES

The April 9, 2009 minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guest Bill Scheffey presented an early 1960s plot map of Christine Lane that he gave the Commission for their files. The map includes the area just off Strasburg Rd. and Rt. 352. Chair Kathryn Yahraes and Commission members thanked Mr. Scheffey for the map

A. Activity Calendar – Changes are marked in bold face – see attached calendar.

B. Other

National History Day - Awards presentation at the Fugett Middle School is scheduled for either June 18. The Commission will award certificates to the students who went on to State Competition for National History Day. There was an honorable mention for a student from Fugett Middle School for the National Competition..

Ben Rohrbeck reported the following groups to tour Plank House:

Camp Goshen – June 18, 25 and 29 from 1-2:30 pm

Educational Department from Colonial PA Plantation – June 18 from 10:30 – 1:00 pm

Dr. Rebecca Ward, a group of children and a few mothers – June 17 10:00 am to 12:00 Noon.

An architect who stopped by the Plank House might be a possible volunteer for the GIS project.

Newtown Square Colonial Day is the same day as East Goshen Living History Day on June 6.

The Continental Line event is now scheduled for September or October. Ellen will keep the Commission updated. The possibility of a Potluck Dinner for volunteers for Paoli

Battlefield Illumination is tentatively scheduled for Saturday August 1, 2009. More details as they become available.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A group of residents met to plan for the Hershey's Mill Dam on 5/13/09. There were many good ideas noted at the meeting including ways to involve the community as well as possible fundraising activities.

The group broke into small work groups to discuss: 1) DEP and Engineering issues; 2) Community Organization, Publicity and an internal Web Site; External Publicity and Media Contacts (print and electronic); and 3) Funding, Township Budget, Fundraising Efforts and Formation of a 501 (c) 3.

6. SUB-DIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT

Sullivan's Grove and Vincent Angelini requests will have additional information available later.

7. LIAISON REPORTS

Planning Commission - Jason reported that a new subdivision application was presented for 957 Cornwallis Rd. by Vincent Angelini, Sr. The plans are still in discussion. Richard Miller submitted a variance request for adding two apartments above his garage at 16 Reservoir Rd. for relief, which was not approved. National Bank of Malvern submitted a variance request for additional parking on the Airport Road side of the building. Request was not approved. The request for front parking on Paoli Pike was OK. Metro PCS, LLC submitted a Conditional use application for a stealth Telecommunications facility within the church steeple at the United Church of Christ (1201 North Chester Rd). Additional discussion dates are in June.

Park and Recreation – Sue reported on a presentation on “Team Lyme” which proposes to build stands in the park to make the public aware of Lyme disease. Their aim is to educate people about Lyme disease. Playground safety mulch was replaced and paper towel dispensers that had been stolen were replaced. The outlets in the new pavilion were vandalized. An enclosure in the park at the end of the trail was requested for people to rest after walking trail. The BOS told Eagle Scouts if they could raise funds they could build the enclosure. Some discussion followed about projects built by various volunteer groups or prospective Eagle Scouts and strongly suggested that on-going maintenance be part of the goal and overall plan.

Municipal Authority – Ellen reported that they tested the new tanks at the Ridley Creek Sewer Treatment Plant but the tanks had small leaks. The weeping will be repaired.

Board of Supervisors – Kathryn said that several Executive Sessions were held for police contract renewals. The Boot Rd. Striping project is a joint project between East and West Goshen and is causing concern from Sts. Peter & Paul school and churches because they might lose a turning lane which, the members feel, could be a traffic hazard and cause safety issues.

On May 28 at 9:00 am, the supervisors will convene a long-range planning meeting to discuss the budget. Information is posted on the Township website. The Board asked that residents sign up for automatic notification of Township updates / activities which will take them to links for various ABCs.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Images of America Book update – Kathryn asked each board member to recruit a volunteer to sell books at the polls on May 19th. It was suggested selling the book for \$23.00 which would include tax. A motion was made and seconded to sell the Images of America for \$23.00 with profits coming back to the HC educational projects. It is thought many people may simply pay \$25 and donate the extra two dollars. Ruth Scadding will broadcast an email to the P & R Board that books are available and encourage donations for same.
- B. Hershey's Mill Dam – As noted above, the meeting on 5/13 broke into small groups, brainstormed issues. Ben said that the engineering minimum could be \$100,000 for either breaching or saving the dam including the removal of silt. An economic impact study needs to be done. Reticulated blocks covered by foliage/grass with a larger grass slope up to the dam could be used.

Conservancy applied for a grant from American River ways to breach the dam work. However, it should be noted that most of the grant money available would probably go to high hazard dams and may not apply to our dam. If the work is going to be done, we need the expertise of a company to save as well as breach the dam, reduce the economic impact if there is a loss of tax revenue adversely affecting same.

The group discussed ways to inform residents of the project including putting up signs for the dam, taking the PowerPoint presentation to homeowners associations, fund-raising including donations and pledging, and going door-to-door in neighborhoods explaining how it will affect residents. T-shirts, getting kids involved, businesses, charitable trusts, theme names, press and new releases were brought up to get the word out about the dam. HMD is National Register Eligible but having National Register Status does not “protect” a structure; it does require that additional efforts be made to protect a structure before any demolition is done.

The purpose of the 5/13/09 meeting was to get the citizen group moving in the same direction as the Historic Commission and the Township. The supervisors favor saving the dam, but cost is the main issue. Equalization is needed for breaching or saving the dam. It was decided that a project name is necessary; getting kids involved will be helpful. By the end of the year a decision will be made on breaching/saving the dam, so there is time for further action. Jason suggested the name “Breacher Creature” for a kind of mascot. With everyone working together on the project, it could be 4-5 years to implement it.

The Stuards offered their yard for staging the “Battle of the Clouds” first person program in conjunction with saving the dam. Ben suggested we rename the Battle “Battle of East

Goshen” to distinguish it from the East Whiteland site. Historic House tours of five or six homes could be used as a fund raiser, but it was noted that a house tour takes a lot of work and would necessitate advance ticket sales and shuttle buses to work well.

Ben asked that a synopsis of the meeting be handed out at Living History Day to make residents aware of project and recruit volunteers.

- C Living History Day – An activity spreadsheet is attached. Discussion followed on activities and people who will help. Dolores reviewed a LHD poster she designed and group offered input. Posters will be put in various businesses, shops and public places to promote LHD. The Township will print 11 x 17 posters with a note at the bottom to refer to the Township web site for details. The Commission thanked Dolores for taking the initiative of putting the poster together.
- D. Other projects/Task Reports
The Plank House Tour Schedule is attached.
- E. Family Research – no report this month. Ed Lendrat will be at the June meeting.
- F. Other Old Business - none

9. NEW BUSINESS.

- A. Group use of Blacksmith Shop Meeting Room – policy recommendations are needed. It is recommended that the Township provide a checklist with guidelines similar to Parks and Rec. Board. This will be put into Old Business at next meeting. Kathryn will ask Diane for a list of the groups using the meeting rooms in the last 18 months to determine viability of checklist and to see if damage to rooms can be ascertained. Ben will continue to check the Blacksmith Shop after each group use.
- B. Other New Business – Stamper Program for LHD or school groups touring historic sites was extensively discussed. More planning needs to be done before implementation.

Rick Smith sent a letter to residents informing them of the June 5, 2009 Supervisors meeting.

- 10. **Correspondence – in packet** Rick Smith sent out a 1000 foot letter to residents for the June 2 BOS meeting where the disposition of the trees on the breast of the dam will be decided.
- 11. **No public comment**
- 12. **Adjournment**
A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Woodin
Recording Secretary