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EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
July 9, 2009

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FINAL

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The East Goshen Township Historical Commission held their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, July 9, 2009 at 7:00pm at the East Goshen Township Building. In attendance were: Chairman Kathryn Yahraes and members Ben Rohrbeck, Sue Ciorletti, Joe Zug and Ed Lendrat. Dolores Higgins was present for the latter portion of the meeting. Vice-Chairman Ellen Carmody and member Jason Young were absent. Also in attendance were: Ed Lendrat (Historical Commission Research Volunteer), Gary Althouse (Township Building Inspector) and Chuck Proctor (Planning Commission liaison).

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1 & 2. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:12pm and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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3. MINUTES

The June 11, 2009 minutes were unanimously approved as corrected. Ben motioned and Sue seconded. No further discussion or comments were made.

4. ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Kathryn noted that on September 21 the activity is the “Spirits of 1777.” The Paoli Battlefield potluck dinner on August 1 will begin at 6:00pm. Everyone is asked to bring a chair and a food item to share. Ben announced that beginning on Monday, the PMHC will be closing 23 sites due to budget cuts.

5. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Kathryn announced the Historical Commission received a Certificate of Achievement from the CCHP Network at their volunteer recognition ceremony on June 24. The Certificate was given for the group’s completion of the East Goshen Historic Resource Atlas. Kathryn, Ben and Sue attended the ceremony. Kathryn passed around the copy of the Atlas for members to look at.

6. SUBDIVISION / LAND DEVELOPMENT

Chuck Proctor gave a report from the July 1 Planning Commission meeting as follows. The UCC antenna was approved. T-Mobile has come back and now wants to put in a 65-ft pole near the New Kent Apartments. Vincent Angelini’s neighbors are complaining about a large dead tree on his property and about yard waste clippings he has placed along the edge of his property. The Planning Commission voted 4:2 in favor of approving the Malvern Bank Conditional Use application. Chuck said he was one of the “nay” votes. He showed a copy of the plans for the bank and shared some of his concerns with the application, including the fact that the bank has presented no landscaping or lighting plan, and their lease with the YMCA is good for only 10 years.

1 Kathryn told Chuck that she has asked Gary Althouse to determine exactly where historic
2 Goshenville begins and ends, and to make sure the signs are correctly located. Gary said one
3 of the summer helpers will work on this project using GPS as soon as time allows. Kathryn
4 said she plans to mark on a plot plan the locations of historic homes in the Route 352 and
5 Paoli Pike area. Doing these things should be helpful to the Planning Commission, and
6 Chuck agreed.

7
8 Kathryn asked Chuck about the John Mummert variance application for his home in
9 Milltown. Chuck said Mr. Mummert would like to remove his deck and put on an addition.
10 The footprint of the addition will be smaller than that of the deck.

11
12 Kathryn noted that if Shirley Fox sells her second lot and someone wants to build on it, the
13 Historical Commission will need to have an HRIS done.

14
15 Kathryn reported that Nick Perakis and his attorney have apparently been back to the
16 Township. They are trying to resurrect the building project for the corner of Paoli Pike and
17 Route 352.

18 19 **7. LIAISON REPORTS**

20 Dolores sent a report from the July 8 Conservancy Board meeting via email.

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22 Ben reported that the Park & Rec did not meet in July.

23
24 Kathryn said the Municipal Authority will meet on July 13. One of the issues they will
25 discuss is a problem with the walls of the SBR tanks.

26
27 Kathryn reported that the Deer Committee presented an updated plan to the Supervisors in
28 June. A copy is available on the Township website. The hours of hunting have been
29 modified slightly to be in line with Game Commission regulations.

30
31 Kathryn reported that the Supervisors had a special meeting June 25 to discuss budget issues.
32 A second meeting will take place July 28. They are still in negotiations for the police
33 contract.

34 35 **8. OLD BUSINESS**

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37 **A. *Images of America* Book** – Kathryn reminded members to recruit volunteers to help
38 them sell books at the Goshen Fair. Kathryn will work on the logistics of transporting the
39 books from one member to another and will send something out via email. The
40 schedule for the fair is currently as follows:

41
42 Mon - Kathryn
43 Tue - Ellen
44 Wed - Jason
45 Thurs -Dolores

1 Fri - Sue

2 Sat - Linda Gordon

3
4 In addition, Linda Gordon will have a book signing at Barnes & Noble in Exton on Saturday,
5 July 11.

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7 The *Images of America* books are currently available at Sam's Club and Costco at a greatly
8 reduced rate. Since this is one of Arcadia's National Accounts, there is nothing that the
9 Historical Commission can do about the reduced price. All volunteers can, however, encourage
10 people to purchase the book through the Township since half of the money for the book sales
11 come back to the Historical Commission for educational program use.

12
13 **B. Hershey's Mill Dam** – Kathryn reported that a volunteer grant writer from Oklahoma is
14 working on writing a grant for funds to save the dam thanks to the efforts of Supervisor Thom
15 Clapper.

16
17 A group of residents working to SAVE THE DAM along with Kathryn and Ellen met with state
18 Senator Andy Dinniman and concerned residents on Tuesday, July 8. The meeting included a
19 tour of the dam. Senator Dinniman is hopeful he can get DEP to grant East Goshen an
20 exemption from complying with the dam requirements on the basis of the historical nature of the
21 dam and the ecological issues involved in a breach. During the meeting, Senator Dinniman
22 informed the group that Rick Smith has sent a letter to CFA requesting grant money to save the
23 dam. This news came as a surprise to all at the meeting.

24
25 The Supervisors took public comment about the dam issue at their meeting on June 23. Kathryn
26 will forward a copy of the minutes to the rest of the Historical Commission when they become
27 available.

28
29 The next meeting of residents in regard to the dam will tentatively take place the week of July
30 20. The group has a website which is www.savethedam.org. Kathryn showed some T-shirts
31 created by Jason which the group is considering printing and selling as a fundraising tool. Jason
32 had asked Kathryn to get the Historical Commission's input on
33 the shirts. The members agreed that selling the shirts is a good idea. However, Dolores and Sue
34 think the Historical Commission should not get involved in a shirt project; all the details should
35 be left to the residents' group.

36
37 Kathryn reported that Bob Wise and Jane Dorchester are preparing proposals for submission to
38 get Hershey's Mill Village on the National Historic Register. This is being done at the urging of
39 Supervisor Don McConathy. Kathryn noted that she will need everyone's help during the
40 application process.

41
42 Jayne Coe (a former resident of the dam house now occupied by Neil DeRiemer) is looking for
43 an album of historic information on the dam that she was given when she moved into the dam
44 house.

1 Sue reported that a video segment of Kathryn speaking about the dam could possibly air on
2 Channel 20 (the Hershey's Mill TV station) in September.

3
4 Ben suggested the historical sign markers be put up near the dam as soon as possible.

5
6 **C. Living History Day** – The members updated the Living History Day Activity sheet for
7 September 19. Sharon Rose is the spinning wheel contact.

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9 **D. Other Project/Task Reports** – None.

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11 **E. Policy Recommendations – Group Use of Blacksmith Shop Meeting Room** – The
12 members reviewed a list of policy suggestions for group use of the Blacksmith Shop meeting
13 room as prepared by Kathryn. Everyone was in agreement with the list. Dolores suggested that
14 the room should be set up with as little furniture as possible on a day-to-day basis so that groups
15 can configure the layout the way they wish for each meeting. The others agreed that was a good
16 idea. Ben said the table with wheels can be left in place as it is cumbersome to move. Dolores
17 suggested the Township develop a set of generic rules for all meeting rooms that would also
18 apply to the Blacksmith Shop. Sue noted the Township shouldn't charge a fee for the use of
19 meeting rooms but might consider a charge for custodial services. Ben said that mice have been
20 a problem in the Blacksmith Shop due to groups bringing in food. However, a ban on food
21 would cause some groups (such as Scouts and Girl Scouts) to stop using the room. Perhaps
22 charging a deposit would be best. Dolores said the decision on all these matters ultimately rests
23 with the Township staff. Everyone agreed to leave the decision on food and a possible
24 custodial fee or deposit to the Township staff. The Historical Commission will request that
25 whatever rules are imposed be applied to all groups using the rooms, without exceptions.

26
27 **F. Family Research for Historical Resources** – Ed Lendrat shared copies of his research
28 on the Hershey's Mill historic area, including Sullivan House.

29
30 **G. CCHPN Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony (June 24)** – Kathryn handed out
31 copies of the program from this program as well as a membership brochure from the CCHPN.
32 She noted that the organization is encouraging everyone to sign up for an individual
33 membership at \$20.

34
35 **H. Other Old Business** – None.

36 37 **9. NEW BUSINESS**

38 **A. Review Expenses** – Ben distributed a list of expenses and donations for 2009 thus far
39 related to the Blacksmith Shop as an FYI to the members.

40 41 **B. Other New Business**

42 i. Kathryn passed around a sample of the geotech fabric being proposed by Neil
43 DeRiemer for use at the Hershey's Mill Dam.

44 ii. Ben reported that during the past month there were 24 visitors to the Blacksmith Shop
45 as part of Dr. Ward's group, 11 visitors from the Colonial Plantation, and three groups from
46 Goshen Friends School – one group of 18 children, another group of 12 children, and another of

1 11 children, as well as adults. On Fathers' Day there were 19 visitors to the Blacksmith Shop.
2 Visitors from Dr. Ward's group and the Colonial Plantation donated a combined total of \$90 in
3 cash.

4 iii. Let Freedom Ring Celebration at Paoli Battlefield – Kathryn reported that she
5 attended this event on July 4 and saw a number of familiar faces there.

6 iv. New Schedule for Blacksmith Shop – Ben shared a new tour/ demonstration schedule
he has implemented to better accommodate visitors.

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9 **10. CORRESPONDENCE** – None.

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11 **11. PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

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13 **12. ADJOURNMENT** – A motion made by Dolores and seconded by Ben to adjourn at 9:30pm
14 was unanimously approved.

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18 Respectfully submitted,

19

20 Anne Meddings

21 Recording Secretary