

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2011**

The East Goshen Township Historical Commission held a scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the East Goshen Township Building. In attendance were: Chairman Ellen Carmody, Co-Vice Chairmen Ben Rohrbeck and Chris Reardon, Sue Ciorletti, Kathryn Yahraes and non-voting members Monica Close and Ed Lendrat. Also in attendance was Gary Althouse (Township Building Inspector and Staff Liaison to the HC).

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

Ben led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and in a moment of silence for our troops.

3. MINUTES

Ben moved to approve the minutes of November 11, 2010 as corrected. Kathryn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chris moved to approve the minutes of December 13, 2010. Ben seconded the motion. The motion passed. Sue abstained.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Feb. 26, 2011 at 9:30 am will be the judge's orientation for the National History Day. Ellen will forward the link to register online as soon as she receives it.

B. July 4, 2010 (a Monday this year) there will be a celebration at the National Constitution Center. This will be outside on the Mall and is a very big event with lots of visitors. This will be a Revolutionary War period event. Chris will be the point person for East Goshen and will coordinate with the Paoli Battlefield our attendance at the event. Chris said that the setup for this event would be similar to the setup of the Brandywine Creek event. Mike Kochan would provide a large fly and East Goshen would be set up on one side with Paoli Battlefield set up on the other side.

C. The first weekend in June will be a World War II reenactment at the Reading Airport. This event is the same weekend as our June Living History Day.

5. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

A. Ellen said she will rely on Kathryn, Ben and Chris. She thanked Kathryn for all the work she did during the past 3 years. Kathryn said the last 3 years were successful because of everyone's input and participation. There is a lot to do. We need to work on getting more volunteers.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

- A. The Budget for 2011 was reviewed. Kathryn explained the advantages of membership with the CCHPN, CCHS, and National Trust.
- B. The expenses that are paid for out of the “donation” bucket were discussed. Ben feels these items should be shown on the Budget.
- C. Kathryn reported that 2 royalty checks from the “Images of America” book were received. She will find out how much they were.
- D. The CCHPN Spring workshop will be \$25 not \$35/person.
- E. Under “Printing”, the Blacksmith Shop brochure will have to be updated.
- F. The Budget total for 2011 is \$6,689 – the same as 2010.
- G. Monica volunteered to be the Treasurer and will find out how to get a monthly report for everyone each month.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Ed provided copies of his latest research on the following properties: 1711 East Boot Road, 194 Line Road, 1422 Paoli Pike, 1615 Paoli Pike, 1615 East Boot Road, 1725 Towne Drive, 1680 East Boot Road and 1662 East Boot Road.
- B. Ed has started research on the following properties: 140, 321, 323 and 329 Dutton Mill Road, 1610, 1700, 1740 and 1780 Hunter Circle, the Grace House at 1785 Strasburg Rd, and 8124 Goshen Road (Strawbridge property).
- C. Ed gave Ellen an original copy of a “Little Lulu” golden book copyright in the 1950s. The author is from East Goshen. It should be filed in 1020 Hershey Mill Road file.
- D. Driving Tour – Ben wrote down the driving tour he did for Frank Vattilano. Ed provided a booklet from another community as a sample. With the Township’s Tricentennial coming up, the Township could be divided into sub-divisions/areas and lists compiled of what is of interest to see in each section. Chris suggested it may be time for the Commission to take a tour of the Township historic resources. Kathryn feels it may be time to go back to the 12 resources, who opted to be off of the Township’s Historic Inventory list. Also, because 50 years is the age cutoff, there may now be more resources in the Township that would qualify to be added to the Inventory list. Ed commented that he only received 98 sites for research. He needs to know the addresses if the other 12 sites that declined to be on the original list. Gary will ask Rick Smith for a list of those 12 properties.
- E. Chadds Ford Winery – Monica reported that she contacted the Chadds Ford Winery to see if they would donate a barrel. They said yes. Sue thinks it will fit in her car. They will pick it up.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. New Email Policy – Gary explained the new email policy. Only the HC chairman will have a township email address. Anytime there is township business mentioned in an email, members must copy the chairman (or any other township staff member) so that the email will go into the archive system.

B. Archive Software – Ellen found free software to store information about all the items in the Plank House and Blacksmith Shop. Right now there is only a loose leaf book with photos of artifacts and a brief description of the artifact in it. This book is kept in the Plank House and currently is the only record of what the Historic Commission has. A master list needs to be developed with a file for each item listing whether the artifact is an original or a reproduction, describing anything specific to the item(ex. maker's mark), if the item was purchased what was the cost, if donated or on loan who from, and an estimate of its current value. It will also help to identify items by time period (revolutionary, civil war, etc.). Kathryn moved to approve the start of this program. Sue seconded the motion. Ben and Chris will start a Master List for the Blacksmith Shop. Ellen will start a Master List for the Plank House. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Programs Schedule -

1. June Living History Day – The format will be changed to the Civil War period. Suggestions were: have a recruiter, women rolling bandages and a tavern in the Plank House. Chris got a call from Lou Stafford, a re-enactor in the 11th PA cavalry unit. They have horses and a wagon and would like to participate. They need two posts to tie the horses. Chris has to verify with their commander. They can also bring a 3” cannon. Gary will check the Township's Blackpowder ordinance to see if the cannon can be fired. A history of weaponry can be set up in the BSS. Kathryn said the CCHS has a civil war trunk which we can rent for the day. Clothing will have to be altered – men will have long pants and no buckles on shoes. Clothing will have to be made for the women. The parlor room in the Plank House could be converted into an interactive tavern. Ladies in the kitchen could ask visitors to help to roll bandages, visitors could join in a public discussion about the war in the Tavern and visitors could be asked to sign petitions which could produce some good give and take arguments. Items needed to convert the Plank House to the period would include quill pens, kerosene lamps and curtains on the windows in the kitchen.

2. Weekend Openings – The Commission discussed when to have the historic area open for the public. In the past, it was open Saturday and Sunday (except July 4th and Labor Day) from May 1st to October, about 50 days. Ben pointed out that about 2/3 of those days had very few visitors. He noted that there are more visitors to Bellingham on Sat. than on Sun. There are more walkers in the morning and soccer is on Sat. Also, there are more visitors in Oct. than in May. Ellen asked for ways to increase visitation.

Some suggestions were: more information on the large sign at the park, flyers, meet with program directors at Bellingham and Wellington to encourage their residents to bring visitors, off site signs and a sign at Boot Rd and Paoli Pk under the meeting board. Ben suggested starting tours in the Plank House and volunteers in the Plank House should get the toys out on the blacktop to play with the kids. It was discussed to have the area open only 2 Saturdays per month, no Sundays, and

extend the hours to be open. Kathryn was concerned that people have come to expect them to be open and this may be too much of a change. She suggested use Saturday for the general public but Sunday for specific groups (Bow Tree, Etc.) Ellen suggested contacting the Civic Associations to give them dates but then offer to have a specific day for their neighborhood.

Ben moved to have the Historic Area open every Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm, from May 1st to October. Chris seconded the motion. After more discussion Kathryn moved to amend the motion to include “accommodate special groups on Sunday and the balance of the week.” There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Newsletter articles – Ellen will provide the dates of events for the Feb. 9th deadline. Ben will provide a list of East Goshen residents who fought in the Civil War for the May 11th deadline.

9. SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT

A. 922 N. Chester Road, McGinty’s – Gary reported there are no formal plans to view yet. He isn’t sure if it will have to come to the Historic Commission because of the Coup House next to it. Chris gave a summary of what the applicant wants to do and the concerns of the residents.

10. LIAISON REPORTS

A. Kathryn asked if another member could share the Board of Supervisors meetings with her since they meet 4 times per month. She encouraged everyone to keep informed by going to the website and reading the meeting packets for the other ABCs.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

None

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ben moved to adjourn the meeting. Kathryn seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ruth Kiefer, Recording Secretary

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