

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
July 17, 2013**

The East Goshen Township Historical Commission held a workshop meeting on Wednesday July 17, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Building. In attendance were: Chairman Chris Reardon, Judy Schafer, Kathryn Yahraes, Sue Ciorletti, Monica Close, Ellen Carmody and non-voting member Ed Lendrat. Also in attendance was John Theilacker, Project Manager, Brandywine Conservancy.

COMMON ACRONYMS:

BOS – Board of Supervisors

BSS – Blacksmith Shop

CCHS – Chester County Historic Society

CCHPN – Chester County Historical Preservation Network

CPTF – 2015 Comprehensive Plan Task Force

DAR – Daughters of the American Revolution

HRIS – Historical Resource Impact Study

LHD – Living History Day

NHD – National History Day

NR – National Register of Historic Places

PHMC – PA Historical Museum Commission

SCA – Sustainable Communities Assessment

SAR – Sons of the American Revolution

TTVW – Town Tours & Village Walks

INTRODUCTION:

Kathryn opened the meeting by stating that the meeting’s purpose is to review the 2005 Comprehensive Plan and make suggestions for the updated 2015 plan. She introduced John Theilacker and turned the meeting over to him. John explained what the updating process is and why it needs to be done. He advised the Commission to use a 20-year horizon. They are considering changing the format of the updated plan because the 2005 plan was difficult to implement in some areas. The updated plan will organize chapters by topical issues and focus on the most important issues.

Part of the process included a Community Visioning Session to invite the public to give their ideas of what East Goshen should be 20 years from now. Although the attendance was low, John and his staff learned a lot from the residents. Because the residents that attended the session were already involved in the township, it was felt that nothing new was discussed.

The SCA was developed for communities to use in assessing their sustainability in the future. East Goshen has a very good historic ordinance. He listed some areas where East Goshen could improve, specifically regarding a town center.

DISCUSSION:

Kathryn started the discussion by giving the following 4 questions to be considered:

1. Where are we today?
2. Where are we going?
3. How would we like East Goshen to be?
4. How do we get there?

Monica feels the township’s history is in good shape because Ed has done excellent research on all of the township historic resources.

Ellen mentioned that some owners of historic properties don’t have a lot of information about their property.

Chris suggested developing a Historic Resource Outreach Program.

John asked about the township designations of historic resources. Ellen commented that some are on the Township Historic Resource List and some are in a historic area.

Kathryn commented that when the historic ordinance was updated the drive-by assessment only looked at Revolutionary War resources. They did not include resources that are 50 years old or more. Ellen added that “developments” became popular after WW II. She feels it is better to identify these by sub-division names.

Kathryn also pointed out that there are other wars, i.e. war of 1812, WW I, WW II, Korea, Vietnam, etc. that need to be included.

Kathryn mentioned that in 2003 the feeling toward historic resources was “If George Washington didn’t sleep there then it’s not important”. She feels the Historical Commission has accomplished a lot in the last 10 years.

Ed confirmed that the definition for historic resources is 50 years or older (although he and Sue don’t think 50 years is old...)

Regarding education/communication of the history of East Goshen, Chris suggested using phases/eras starting with the Rev War. Most of that has been done by Ed. We just need to summarize it into a brochure. The history that is on the township website needs to be reviewed since Ed has discovered some discrepancies in dates. Judy reminded everyone that a bicentennial event will be held in 2017, so we need a handout for that.

John asked if there are any properties that should be preserved. Kathryn mentioned that the Clocktower property on E. Boot Road is for sale and the description mentions that it can be subdivided. She feels the Commerce Commission should be involved in finding a solution such as a bed and breakfast for this property.

Ellen is concerned about redevelopment since East Goshen is all sold out. She feels the BOS has been open to adaptive reuse of historic resources.

Kathryn mentioned that Mark Gordon offered to work with the Historical Commission to compose a welcome letter for new owners of historic resources. Chris commented that the BOS will have to approve anything the HC wants to send out. He suggested using the map Sean Moir will make for the Battle of the Clouds and mail it to the owners of the original 15 homes. Kathryn would like to have Sean show the interactive presentation of the Battle of the Clouds.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES – Chapter 1, 5.0 Historic & Cultural Resources, page 1-4

5A-2 Change to “Create greater community involvement in the Historical Commission”.

Add 5A-3 Investigate the process and cost of applying for the National Historic Registry

Change 5A – 3 to 5A – 4

5B – No changes

5C-1 Change to “Utilize various historic programs & resources to showcase period daily life activities”.

5D – Delete 5D – 1

CHAPTER 5 – Historic and Cultural resource Protection Plan

Page 5-1 – delete 5A-1-6

Page 5-2 - Recommendation 5A-2 – Change title to match 5A-2 above.

Actions Needed: 5A-2-1 Change to “Develop a volunteer recruitment plan”.

Delete 5A-2-2

Recommendation 5A-3 – Change to match new 5A-3 above.

Actions Needed: 5A-3-1 change “Assist in” to “Support the preparation...”

Page 5-3 – No changes

Page 5-4 - Delete 5B-2-2

5B-4-1 delete “program”

Page 5-5 – Remove the word “re-enactment” from Recommendation 5C-1 title & 1st line of the discussion.

From 5C-1-1

From 5C-1-2 and insert “historic events.”

From 5C-1-4

And Delete 5C-1-3.

Page 5-6 – Delete Recommendation 5D-1, Discussion and Actions Needed.

Kathryn thanked everyone for attending the meeting and giving ideas. There will be review of Chapter 10 and Appendix E at a later date.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kiefer, Recording Secretary.