

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
November 14, 2013**

The East Goshen Township Historical Commission held a scheduled meeting on Thursday November 14, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Building. In attendance were: Chairman Chris Reardon, Judy Schafer, Kathryn Yahraes, William Schultz, Ellen Carmody, Monica Close, Sue Ciorletti and Ed Lendrat. Others present: Mark Gordon, Zoning Officer, and Bryan DelMonte, Conservancy Board.

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

HC – Historical Commission

HRIS – Historical Resource Impact Study

LHD – Living History Day

NHD – National History Day

NR – National Register of Historic Places

PH – Plank House

PHMC – PA Historical Museum Commission

SCA – Sustainable Communities Assessment

SAR – Sons of the American Revolution

TTVW – Town Tours & Village Walks

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence

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

Sub-Division/Land Development

1662 E. Boot Rd – Owners Eric and Loretta Rudolph were present. Christopher Schubert of Riley Riper Hollin & Colegreco represented the owners. Jim Renehan, developer, was also present. Chris explained that Mr. & Mrs. Rudolph want to sell their 4 acre property. The existing house was built around 1897 and has many additions. Jim Renehan wants to purchase the property, demolish the existing house and sub-divide the property into 3 lots. In order to do this, the house has to be removed from the East Goshen Historic Resources List.

Jim explained that, if the house has to remain, it will hinder the placement of the new houses. He would take off all of the additions.

Mr. Rudolph told the Commission that they are welcome to come and look at the house. It is 75% additions and has been on the market for 2 years.

Mark explained the process of removing it from the list, which includes a public hearing. Mark drew a sketch of the property on the white board to show the difference in the lot if the house is demolished.

There is a barn on the property which was built in the 1960s. Mark explained that the barn is considered a non-conforming structure which is usually removed. Jim likes the barn. Mark has the historic file if anyone wants to see it.

Public Comments:

Scott Nulty, 1716 Clocktower Dr. – Asked about the Clocktower House. Mark commented there are no plans at this time for that property. Jim mentioned that his plan is for each house to have an individual driveway onto Boot Road.

Bryan DelMonte, 1710 Clocktower Dr. - He asked why the house was on the historic list. Also, he is concerned about drainage. During heavy storms the water runs onto his property like a stream. When there was a meadow on the property, there wasn't a problem but now the meadow is mowed.

Jim explained that there is going to be stormwater management requirements for each house which is regulated by the Township. Bryan should see things improve.

Ed explained that in 1981, Chester County wanted a list of all historic homes in the County. Any house over 50 years old was considered "historic".

Mark added that in 1989 the Historical Commission was set up. They took a tour of the Township using an 1883 map the County provided. In 2003, the Preservation Ordinance was passed which set up definitions of Class 1 and Class 2 houses. Class 1 is pristine and available for the National Historic list. Class 2 has

issues that would keep it off the National list but still is considered historic. This is the first request the Township has had for removal of a property from the Historic Resources list. Kathryn commented that the Historical Commission has a history of who lived in the houses and this may be an additional reason to consider a house historic.

Ellen asked Jim about the size of the new homes. Jim answered that they will be about 3600 – 4400 sq. ft., similar to the ones he is building in Ashleybrooke.

Chris R confirmed that the next step is a public hearing. This will be done during the December 12, 2013 Historical Commission meeting.

It was decided that the Commission and anyone else who wants to see the property will take a site walk on Saturday, November 23, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. Mark will do whatever announcement/advertisement is needed. Kathryn is concerned about the historic aspect of this area on Boot Road. She would like to take photos of just the historic parts of the house. She mentioned that the stairs and some flooring in the Plank House are repurposed from demolished, historic buildings.

Jim has repurposed items from homes that he has had to demolish. He honestly doesn't know what he will find here but he will repurpose anything they find.

Monica recused herself from this case since she works for the law firm representing the Rudolphs. Kathryn will contact Karen Marshall to inform her of this request and see if she has any suggestions.

Minutes

The Chairman noted that the minutes of October 10, 2013 were approved.

Announcements

The calendar of events for 2013 has no changes. Kathryn pointed out that she added the talks at the General Warren Inn on the 2014 calendar and the Annual Planning Session of the ABCs is on January 11, 2014. On May 17 & 18, 2014, the Brandywine Battlefield is having a reenactment. About 3,000 people have been contacted including a group from England. Tables are available for municipalities so the HC could advertise the Living History Day.

Kathryn gave out copies of the article she submitted for the Township newsletter which was about the need for volunteers. She had some volunteers help her clean out the garden at the Plank House last week. She has 5 volunteers to help with the garden and 2 new tour guides.

Treasurer's Report

Monica reported that the only change in the report was the addition of \$54 from the BSS bucket. She has receipts from Judy and for the 2 tents that were purchased totaling \$542.00. Kathryn moved to reimburse Judy and Monica for these expenses. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chris mentioned that the payment for the saddle was mailed.

Kathryn included in her handout a list of the items in the brochure rack. Judy commented that the conversion to the Revolutionary War era is done. Since there are pictures on the walls of the BSS, there is no room for the brochure rack. Chris thought the Commission had agreed to put brochures on the website and no longer pay to have them in the rack. Kathryn feels there is still a need to have them available on the site. Chris will put this on the Dec. agenda.

Chairman's Report

- A. Chris thanked Judy and everyone who helped her with the BSS. Judy mentioned that Dolores has located more maps and will have them framed.
- B. Chris thanked Ellen for her work this year on the historic items inventory. Ellen commented that it isn't complete. There are still some items to identify.
- C. Chris reported that the 4 wheels that were donated will be the first items to go through the donation process involving the Friends of East Goshen.
- D. The BOS had a meeting with the Chairmen of the ABCs. From now on they will ask for input from the ABC before appointing a new member. Also, they will design a business card for each ABC (not each individual) which will have the name of the ABC and Township contact information.

Old Business

A. Misc. Research

1. Ed distributed the written reports for last month's research on 1351 Paoli Pike and 600 Reservoir Road. This month's research was on 1610 E. Strasburg Road a house in the Rocky Hill District. He also gave us a report on the "Buzzard's Roost" which is about the hobo camps in East Goshen from 1880 to 1890.

Ed reported that he attended a seminar at Yellow Springs. He gave everyone an information sheet about HCI-PSAR which is a project of the Historical Society of PA. The goal is to take the archival collections of all historic organizations in the five-county Philadelphia region and list them on a website.

2. Bill gave all of the Commission members an autographed copy of his book "West Chester History", which is a history of post cards. He pointed out that on page 37 he has the rarest post card which has the original West Chester Railroad station on it. He also passed around a copy of the PA Postal Historian, a publication that comes out six times per year. His article about Goshenville is in this copy. He mentioned that there was no Rocky Hill post office. That post office was called the Cloud Post Office named after a local family.

B. CPTF – Kathryn provided a copy of the township history and wanted to discuss it. Chris announced that the Battle of the Clouds project is complete so he would like to delay this discussion. Karen Marshall sent out invitations to a "thank you for the research" meeting on Dec. 5 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the West Whiteland Township Building.

C. Open Space Plan Task Force – Chris and Monica attended the first meeting. The consultants want to set up focus groups of residents. Chris will send everyone a copy of the request form to be on a focus group. The committee will only meet 4 times.

New Business

A. Final spending for 2013. Chris wants to be sure the Commission won't go over their budget. He reviewed all of the items that were left to be done and feels they are complete.

B. Officers for 2014 – Chris has completed his 2 year term as Chairman. He will contact each member and come up with a slate of officers for 2014.

C. Next month the goals and objectives for 2014 will be discussed. Bryan explained how he and the CB prepared their goals by comparing to the goals in the Comp Plan.

D. Other New Business:

1. Chris received a letter from Scott Sanders regarding installation of a historic marker on Westtown Way near the springhouse. After discussion, Chris will contact Scott to let him know that the Township does not provide historic markers.

2. Candles – There was discussion about putting candles in the windows at the PH & BSS. It was decided that, since they weren't used for this in Revolutionary times, no candles would be put in the windows.

Liaison Report

Conservancy Board – Bryan reported that there is a planting this Saturday Nov. 16, 2013 at 9:00 am in Applebrook northside of E Boot Road. He has marked the spots to plant 5 bald cypress trees. Tomorrow he and Ginnie Newlin will place the flag markers for the rest of the planting materials. Erich Meyer (Park & Rec Commission) is doing the digging. They need volunteers.

Chris asked him about the American Chestnut tree. Bryan commented that he did get the free seeds and he planted them, but the squirrels and grubs ate them. He may try again but will start them in his basement.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ellen moved to adjourn the meeting. Sue seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ruth Kiefer, Recording Secretary