

SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting - April 21, 2014

Members Present: Sandy Momyer, Jay Stearly, Ginny Stearly, Joanne Brown, Khalil Hihi, Dianne Cram

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

Minutes: March 2014 meeting minutes were approved as written.

Announcements:

Sandy announced that the June 12th program by Janet Uhlar on Moore Hall and Nathaniel Greene will be held at the Phoenixville Country Club at 7:30pm.

FORUM 2014, a statewide conference on historic preservation will be held in Philadelphia July 16-20.

A program by Mike McGraf on mulching will be at Phoenixville Country Club on Sept. 10th at 7:30pm.

Founders Day will be held on November 1, 2014.

McAvoy Brick Company will be recognized as an outstanding business in the Township. The historic buildings at that site will be surveyed. Sandy reported that the original file on criteria for selecting an outstanding citizen cannot be located therefore Sandy compiled a new list of criteria that also includes an outstanding business or organization. Khalil asked if all criteria had to be met and it was agreed that it was not necessary. Fred Perry asked if members of Board of Supervisors were eligible and Sandy responded that they are once they retired from serving on the BOS. Fred also expressed a concern about the selections being "politically motivated". Sandy assured him that selections in the past were not politically motivated at all.

Joanne Brown made a motion to accept the criteria for selecting an outstanding citizen and outstanding organization or business as presented by Sandy. Dianne seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Survey:

Sandy has submitted a list and map that include the most recent surveyed properties for inclusion in Survey II. Eleven bridges will also be included at the recommendation of Karen Marshall and Bob Wise. Khalil said that the bridges are now added. Ginny verified that all are stone bridges, some are very small but are still bridges and not culverts. Sandy will once again submit these updates and hope that BOS will approve it in May and it will then be on the way to being advertised to the public.

Dave Kiefer will have the survey printing completed by the end of the week. Mailings will have to wait until final approval is gained but envelopes can be prepared in the meanwhile.

Reports by Yerkes:

29 S. Whitehorse Road - A meeting between Mary Bird, Frank Newhams and a representative of the Historical Commission is planned. Township Supervisor Barbara Cohen commented that she felt that Frank Newham's reports were not complete and as liaison to the Historical Commission she was extremely dissatisfied with how he is conducting the investigations of threatened historical properties in the Township. Sandy said that Mary Bird had advised that inviting Frank Newhams to the Historical Commission meeting would be against protocol. Supervisor Fred Perry said that the BOS was well aware of the dissatisfaction and that an executive session with the Yerkes Company will be set.

Royal Bank/Becca's Restaurant - Both businesses have been closed and should be kept "on our radar" for future developments.

Trolley Station – Barbara reported that they are moving forward with John Sarto on finalizing the plans for that area.

Dianne suggested that the barn and agricultural buildings on the old Showalter property above Route 29 should be added to the "radar list" since they are showing signs of deterioration from neglect.

Old Business:

Barbara Cohen asked about the status of contacting Freedoms Foundation. Dianne offered to try contacting Mr. Di Yesso again to try to set up a time to visit.

Sandy asked Barbara to look into the situation with the property at 100 Creek Road.

New Business:

The new tax credit program applies to income producing properties and still does not cover private homes.

Dr. Richard Wolstenholme attended the meeting. He is a 37 year citizen of the Township and a retired veterinarian, and also interested in historic preservation.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Submitted by,

Dianne M. Cram

SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION
AGENDA – April 21, 2014 – 7 p.m.

1. Call to Order – Sandy Momyer, Chair
2. Approve March minutes – Dianne Cram, Secretary
3. Announcements:
 - a. June 12 – Janet Uhlar – Moore Hall, 7:30 p.m. – PCC
 - b. July 16-20 – 2014 FORUM – Philadelphia
 - c. Sept. 10 – Mike McGraf – mulching – 7:30 p.m. – PCC
 - d. November 1 – Founders Day – 11 a.m. – PCC
4. What Makes Schuylkill Township Tick – Sandy review
5. Survey – Sandy and Khalil Hihi
 - a. Submission/amendment
 - b. Bridges
 - c. Printing
 - d. Mailing
6. Schuylkill School – Sandy
7. Reports – Frank Newhams
 - a. 29 S. White Horse Road
 - b. Anderson Farm
 - c. Becca/Royal Bank
 - d. Freedoms Foundation
 - e. Country Club/Rt. 23
 - f. 100 Creek Road
 - g. American Ink
8. Trolley Station – Sandy and Dianne
 - a. Meeting-Task Force
 - b. Next steps
9. Old Business
10. New Business – Tax credits
11. Next Meeting – Monday, May 19, 2014, 7 p.m. – Municipal Building
12. Meeting Adjourned