

**SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 17, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joanne Brown, John Gregory, Khalil Hihi, David Kiefer, Sandy Momyer, Ginny Stearly, Jay Stearly

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Barbara Cohen, BOS Liaison, Jim Morrison

Sandy Momyer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

MINUTES: Minutes for the month of February were approved as written: motion by Ginny Stearly, seconded by Jay Stearly. All ayes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- March 27 – Township meeting at the Phx. Country Club – Sandy will present for HC
 - June 12 – Janet Uhlar – book lecture Moore Hall – Phx. Country Club
 - Sept. 10 – Mike McGraf on composting at Phx. Country Club
 - Nov. 1 – Founders Day – Phx. Country Club
- Discussion re naming McAvoy Brick as an outstanding business in our township and how it is listed in our survey. Sandy and Khalil Hihi will check with Bob Wise to get listing. Discussion to continue. Outstanding Citizen under discussion based on these results.

CCHPN WORKSHOP:

Sandy and John Gregory attended and reported. John discussed a procedure to notify contiguous properties when an historic home owner is planning a building project. He recommended we add this to our procedure. HC asked Gregory to research adding this procedure to our list and then we can recommend it to the BOS for approval to institute. Both reported that based on presentations, our HC is on tract re procedures with the work we do.

ORDINANCE AND SURVEY:

Sandy submitted our survey II to the BOS. David Keifer brought printing sample of the complete survey and will complete this printing. When amendment approved by BOS, Sandy and Ginny Stearly with support from Martha Kajewski will mail copies to all historic home owners along with the approved procedures for requesting a building permit for Class 1 and 2 properties. Madeline will prepare letters and address labels. Jim Morrison reported he has worked with Kim in the Zoning Office to get historic properties flagged in the township computer system.

SCHUYLKILL SCHOOL:

Sandy was interviewed on the school by WCHE 1520 AM on Passing Time to aid May 21 at 1 P.M... She announced she presented BOS with a check for \$550 from the Friends of Schuylkill School. It is to go toward the plaque for the school memorial.

VALLEY PARK TROLLEY STATION:

Sandy and Dianne Cram to meet with Matthew Roberson and Mary Bird to determine next steps for the project.

REPORTS: Frank Newhams

Historical Commission voiced its concern on the late reporting by Frank Newhams. The report for March was received at 5 p.m. the day of the meeting and did not give enough time for members to read the report. Will seek to have the report delivered sooner.

- 29 S. White Horse Road – HC is STILL concerned about the deterioration of this property and fears demolition due to unsafe conditions. We are concerned that our ordinance is not being utilized to deal with this property. There is remediation in the ordinance.

Sandy to discuss with Supervisors to ask if ordinance can be used. John Gregory discussed the Blighted Conservation Act and the possibility of applying this to the property. Following a lengthy discussion Barbara Cohen said she would consult with solicitor Bill Brennan re implementation of the ordinance.

- Freedoms Foundation – Barbara discussed the trail grant that would go through this property. Sandy sent a memo to Norm Vutz, Interim Manager, to see about setting up a meeting with FF re the historic properties on its site. No response as yet. We would like to tour the interiors of these houses.
- Anderson Farm – still concerns on this Class 1 property.
- Becca's Restaurant – closed but rumors surround it. Sandy to discuss with Kim and ask to be kept informed if activity occurs.
- American Ink Property – Historical Commission interested in what is happening with this property.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chester County Historic Preservation Network will be offering a bus trip to the Historic Preservation Forum in Philadelphia in July. We will want to be represented at this event.

NEW BUSINESS:

- It was reported that the Royal Bank has been sold and purchased by the same person who purchased Becca's. We will ask Kim to keep us posted on activity as to use of the property. We will also check with Bob Wise re adding this property to the survey.
- John Gregory discussed his stepping down from the Historical Commission for personal reasons. He is disturbed about the treatment of his wife as EAC chair by members of the Board of Supervisors and finds it difficult to work within the township. Members expressed their concern and pointed out that he has been an invaluable asset to the Historical Commission. He was responsible for rewriting

our historic ordinance and overseeing and interpreting it for us and also a major member of the survey team as well as involved in all aspects of our work. John was asked to reconsider or at least take a leave of absence to take some time to think about this action. He agreed to do this.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 21 at 7 p.m. in the Township Municipal Building.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

Sandy Momyer, Chair