

SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting - November 17, 2014

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Sandy Momyer, Khalil Hihi, John Gregory, Ginny Stearly, Jay Stearly, Dianne Cram

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm. Sandy announced the sad news that our friend and fellow Historical Commission member Joanne Brown had passed away earlier on this day. Joanne had served on the Commission from its very beginning. There was a moment of silence in memory of Joanne.

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES: Minutes of the October meeting were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A public meeting will be held on November 20th at the Township building to discuss the feasibility of a trail connecting Valley Forge NHP through Schuylkill Township to Phoenixville.

REVIEW OF PROPERTIES

501 Valley Forge Road – Property owner Tim Daly presented photographs and explanation of an extension of the porch alongside the new addition on his house. The majority of the construction had already been completed. It was noted by all that the permit was issued on October 22 and the construction underway before it had been brought to the Historical Commission for review. The consensus was that the Township Zoning Officer had failed to alert this Commission or wait for our review before granting the permit and that Mr. Daly was not at fault for proceeding with the construction.*

305 Kimberton Road – Property owner Jim Falco and project developer Mike Sodl presented their plans to demolish a circa 1952 Cape Cod style house and build a three story, climate controlled self-storage building. They already have a letter from PHMC stating that there is no impact to historic structures or archeological resources. A motion was made by Dianne stating that since there is no historical significance to this property and it is not on our survey the Historical Commission does not oppose the demolition nor does it need to be reviewed further by the Commission. Motion was seconded by Ginny and approved with all in favor.

Bull Tavern – Property owner Andy Fifer was present. Bob Wise and Seth Henshaw presented findings from their investigation of the historic portions of the Tavern. The earliest core of the structure dating to 1734 has an 1843 addition with what appears to be another early summer kitchen beyond that. Their recommendations are: That these earliest portions including the summer kitchen are retained; the parking area to the east is reduced and a landscape plan developed; the interior be adapted for office space which will be low impact; any new structures built on the property to be compatible in design; and that a restoration plan is developed.

FOUNDERS DAY

Sandy thanked all who participate and asked that expenses be submitted to Mary quickly.

VALLEY PARK TROLLEY STATION

Dianne reported that Matthew Robeson is completing the placement of furring strips along the walls. The photo supplied by Khalil clearly shows the placement of tongue and groove bead board on upper and lower portions of the walls. There is interesting evidence of scraps of bead board that was placed into the mortar as nailers.

SURVEY

Sandy reported that the concerns of "opting out" as a means for property owners to remove their property from the survey were discussed at a recent meeting of Chester County Historic Preservation Network. John brought up the question of whether or not the opting out could be used by subsequent property owners.

Sandy has asked for a review of the letter and information on procedures to be sent to property owners. She will coordinate with the Township office to get the mailing out before the holidays. A tentative December 1 date is planned.

2015 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Sandy made a recommendation for a program on the Battle of the Clouds by Sean Moore. The cost would be approximately \$250.

REPORTS

29 South White Horse Road – No additional work was reported.

Anderson Barn – Frank Newhams reported that he was unable to contact the owner and a violation notice will be filed.

Meadowood Barn – Dianne will contact The Historic Barn and Farm Foundation to see if they have an interest in documenting this barn.

NEW BUSINESS

Fred Perry asked that we let our liaison Barbara Cohen know what needs to be reported on at BOS meetings, and make requests for BOS to pass motions that will help the Historical Commission

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Submitted by

Dianne M. Cram

*Kim, Zoning Officer for the Township responded to Sandy Momyer's inquiries on November 20 stating that Mr. Daly and his contractor Jim Lombardi have disregarded all township procedures/building codes and that she has been dealing with their non-compliance for over a year. They were advised in writing that nothing was to start prior to getting approval from the Historical Commission. They disregarded that and proceeded to build the porch without the permit.

**SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION
AGENDA – November 17, 2014 -7 p.m.**

1. Call to Order – Sandy Momyer, Chair
2. Approve October minutes – Dianne Cram, Secretary
3. Announcements:
 - a. Public Info Meeting and Workshop – Trail Study
Thursday, November 20 – 7:30 p.m. – Schuylkill Twp. Hall
4. 501 Valley Forge Road – Tim Daly
5. 305 Kimberton Road – Jim Falco
6. Bull Tavern – Andy Fifer, Bob Wise
7. Founders Day review
8. Schuylkill School Plaques
9. Valley Park Trolley Station – Dianne
10. Survey – Khalil Hihi, David Keifer, Sandy
 - a. CCHPN – opting out
 - b. Mailing survey to owners – review letter
11. 2015 Educational Programs – Sandy
12. Reports – Frank Newhams
 - a. 29 S. White Horse Road
 - b. Anderson Farm
 - c. 100 Creek Road
 - d. Freedoms Foundation
 - e. 100 Country Club Road
 - f. Showalter/Levin Barns
 - g. American Ink
13. Old Business
14. New Business
15. Next Meeting – Monday, December 15, 2014 – 7 p.m. – Municipal Building
16. Meeting Adjourned