

SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting - September 15, 2014

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

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Minutes: A quorum was not present to approve previous minutes.

Announcements:

Tom Herson who served on the Planning Commission recently passed away.

Founders Day will be held on November 1, 2014 at Phoenixville Country Club. Sandy has invited the local legislators. The McAvoy family and Dr. Lola Reed will be honored. Dr. Reed may not be able to attend. She was a Pediatrician who established a baby clinic and the first day care center in the community.

Phoenixville Areas School District

Dr. Fegley had invited Sandy to visit the former Meadowood Golf Club property. She reported that the historic house is not in good condition cosmetically and that mold and asbestos were present, but the structure seemed to be stable. Sandy has recommended that PASD get a professional to examine the buildings and identify important historical features. Apparently John Milner Associates has been retained. Sandy will try to get an oral history of the site from Joanne Brown whose maternal grandparents named Hallowell were previous owners. Sandy will arrange for another visit for the Historical Commission.

Bull Tavern

Owner Andy Pfiffer has retained Bob Wise to examine the building. The Historical Commission has been invited along with the developer interested in purchasing the property for a tour at 3:00pm on September 22nd. There is consideration of demolishing later additions to the historic structure.

Budget

Sandy has submitted the same figures as 2014 budget. There is \$10,000 allotted for the Trolley Station renovations and an additional \$5000 for expenses.

Schuylkill School Plaque

The wording and picture have been sent to Dr. Fegley. Mary Bird has asked about the installation costs for the plaque. The cost of the plaque including shipping is \$1509.59. Sandy will ask Dr. Fegley about the possibility of placing a small sign at the millstone that served as the base of the May pole.

Survey Printing

Sandy expressed concern that she has not heard back from David Kieffer about the status of completing the printing of the survey. There is one copy that is not complete in the closet of the meeting room, and

David had delivered one complete set to the Township office, three more sets are needed. Once the survey is ready to be mailed Sandy will write a cover letter.

Reports

- 29 South White Horse Road – Some but not all windows have been replaced. PECO will be shutting off power to the house at the pole.
- Anderson Farm Barn – No update to report.
- 100 Creek Road – Barbara Cohen said she will contact owner Dr. Eisner after the Jewish holiday.
- Valley Park Trolley Station – Mary Bird has sent a contract to Matthew Robeson for work to be completed this fall.

New Business

Jerry O'Dell of the Environmental Advisory Commission has expressed concerns about a decaying black locust tree at the old Township building that needs to be removed. This will not impact any historical integrity of that building.

Ordinance Update

There is a group working to update the ordinance concerned with property maintenance with emphasis on health and safety in deteriorating buildings.

Nominations for Historical Commission

There are lapsed members whose absence is holding up our progress to gain a quorum. Sandy will contact John Gregory and Pamela Applegate-Frasch to determine if they will remain on the Commission. Sandy will also contact Mr. Eric Larenzon and Dr. Walstonholme to ask about their interest in joining the Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Submitted by

Dianne M. Cram

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 Newham 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