

Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

East Brandywine Township Building

June 8, 2016 @ 7:00 PM

Members Present: Vice-Chairman John Black, Chairman James Buczala, Mark Myers, and Carol Schmidt.

Members Absent: Secretary Ashley Harper, Alexandria Proko, and Daniel Rhodes.

Guests: Assistant Township Manager Luke Reven.

Chairman Buczala called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and recognized guests from the Boy Scouts Troop 8. Chairman Buczala asked the Scouts lead those present in the pledge to the flag.

Due to the absence of Secretary Harper, Chairman Buczala asked for volunteers to record the minutes of the meeting. Mr. Reven indicated he would do so.

Chairman Buczala provided the following brief update on the application of the Learning Experience for Preliminary Plan approval and the associated Historical Resources Impact Study (HRIS): Attorney for the applicant, Kristin Camp, has informed the Township that the project is "on hold" due to high costs and the length of time the project is taking. Chairman Buczala further stated that the review letter from Township Engineer Mark Padula of Yerkes and Associates and dated May 27, 2016 included a reference (page 7) to the lack of a Visual Impact Plan provided by the applicants. This comment is consistent with the feedback the applicant has received from the Historical Commission at previous meetings. Mr. Reven stated that the applicant also did not attend the June 1, 2016 Planning Commission.

Chairman Buczala provided a brief update on the Zoning Hearing Board appeal of HR-104 property owner Scott Risbon, who had been denied a building permit to alter a contributing springhouse on HR-104 based on the recommendation of the Historical Commission. The work to alter the springhouse was completed without permits from the Township. Township Solicitor Stacey Fuller is preparing a settlement agreement containing mitigation for the lost historic resource which is to be performed at the Bondsville Mill Park. The elements of mitigation have been developed in cooperation with the Bondsville Mill Park Committee and involve the hand-removal of debris at multiple locations on the site. The HC members accepted the scope of work for the mitigation as defined by the Bondsville Mill Park Committee. Mr. Reven further reported that structural concerns first described by Zoning Officer Frank Newhams, specifically the lack of evidence that the historic foundation could support a second floor, have been resolved in subsequent correspondence between Mr. Risbon, Mr. Newhams, and the applicant's engineer.

Chairman Buczala reported that a second Act 247 review letter from Chester County has been received regarding the proposed changes to the Township's Historical Resources Protection Standards. At their June 1, 2016 meeting, the Planning Commission recommended that the Board of Supervisors authorize Township Staff to advertise the ordinance.

Ms. Schmidt reported the following plans for the Fall 2016 speaker series:

1. September 18 at 3:30 PM. Participants will tour Hopewell United Methodist church and learn about a history that goes back over 200 years.
2. October 16 at 3:30 PM. Gene Pisasale, local author and historian, will present a lecture on the War of 1812.
3. November 20 and 3:30 PM. Keith Smith, local author and historian, will provide an overview of the process of obtaining a historical marker.

Ms. Schmidt further provided an update on the early plans for the Spring Speaking Series of 2017, specifically speaker Catherine Quillman regarding Milford Mills (which was submerged when the Marsh Creek Lake was created), and Bruce Mowday author and former editor of the Daily Local News. It was decided that an announcement for the Fall Speaking Series should appear in the Township's Summer 2016 Milemarker; Mr. Reven stated that the deadline for the submission of material to *Milemarker* editor Bob Pringle is June 17, 2016.

It was reported that Allie Proko had suggested setting up a display table for the Historical Commission at the Township's Family Day event at the Community Park in August. All thought this was a worthy action item.

There was no report regarding property research due to the absence of Mr. Rhodes, primary researcher for the Commission.

The Commission reviewed and commented on a report provided by Bob Wise entitled "Incentive Provisions found in Local Historic Resource Protection Ordinances." The consensus was that the search for more positive aspects of owning an historic resource should be continued for inclusion in our Ordinance. Jim will follow up with Karen Marshall to explore concepts for consideration.

The Commission discussed the demolition of the dormitory building on the Delaware Community College campus. Ms. Schmidt indicated she is continuing to work on language for a historical marker to be placed at the site.

A metal plaque prepared to mark the site of the original East Brandywine Baptist Church was reviewed. Although the plaque was developed by former members of the HC with the Church, without input from the current HC, all present at the meeting thought it was a fine idea.

Carol will take the lead to organize existing audio recordings (she will touch base with Joy Tkachick, former president of the East Brandywine Historical Society, to see what she may have). Carol will also work to facilitate setting up interviews with the elderly of the Township through Mike Dawson. John Black offered technical assistance.

During consideration of the draft minutes of the May 11, 2016 Historical Commission Chairman Buczala recommended removal of section "VIII" of the draft notes in its entirety. Mr. Myers suggested that section "I(b)" be amended to reference 12-lite and 9-lite windows as appropriate rather than "4x3" or "3x3" as in the draft minutes. Mr. Black noted that section "I(k)" the abbreviation "HV" should read "HVAC." Chairman Buczala made a motion to approve the minutes with the three friendly amendments, which was seconded by Mr. Black. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chairman Buczala made the motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Luke Reven