

East Brandywine Historical Commission Meeting
March 9, 2022

Present: John Black, Jim Buczala, Sharon Buczala, Mark Myers, and Bob Renken

Also Present: Luke Reven, Mario Spoto

Meeting opened at 7:10 pm; Adjourned at 8:00 pm

Minutes of previous month's meetings

The minutes for the February 2022 meeting were approved as amended.

Hadfield Road Bridge (HR-328)

- John B. sent a couple of emails to Sandy Martin to ask for updated plans, no response. He will call her to follow up. He did get some paperwork regarding eminent domain from attorney so he knows something is happening.
- Jim B. saw Sandy Martin at the Feb 17th Board of Supervisors meeting when she was making a presentation on the replacement of the Reeds Road Bridge. He asked her about the status of the Hadfield Road Bridge replacement/design, and pointed out that she was going to keep us in the loop during the design process. She said she would be attending a Historic Commission meeting soon (within several months) to update the commission on the design.

North Reeds Road Bridge (adjacent to HR-30)

Discussion tabled to next month. Presentation by Sandy Martin to the Board of Supervisors at February 17th meeting. Jim B. had several questions for her about the bridge design during the meeting; the following is a summary based on her responses:

- The roadways on either side of the bridge will not be widened.
- The size and design of the bridge will be site sensitive (will be designed to be similar to what is there, but a little bit wider; 29 ft. wide with 10 ft. lanes, and maintaining the current roadway width of 19 ft.).
- The County is aware of HR-30, owned by the Walmbach family, and it will not be affected.
- Planning/design is in the very early stages (years before it is brought to fruition).

Locust Knoll Farm, 1000 Horseshoe Pike (HR-78)

David Thal working on salvaging barn wood and stacking on pallets to be reused in the re-build.

Croce Marker Historical Marker

- Roadmaster had asked for, and Jim B. provided, a current Permission form from the owners for the installation of the Marker. It will be installed soon per recent communication.

- Jim B. reported that Dianne Cram (technical assistance from CCHPN) is trying to schedule a meeting to review the outhouse.
- Dedication ceremony for marker is a possibility for late summer or fall.

Dowlin House, 270 Arters Way (HR-45)

John B. has driven by and noted that the following has been done:

- Basement entrance – Bilco doors have been installed.
- All windows are in.
- Three outside doors are not yet installed but they are boarded up.
- Some cleanup of the grounds.

Speaker Series

March 20th – “For the Union” – program about the Civil War focusing on free slaves and activists in West Chester will be given by Malcom Johnstone.

Need room opened up by 2 pm. Will be using AV equipment.

Luke and John B. will trouble shoot microphone issues (trouble with wireless and lavalier mics during last program).

Oral History Project/Community Outreach Sub-committee

Carol has done two new interviews:

- February 5th with Ann Lucas.
- February 12th with Howard Lowman.

Outreach sub-committee met on February 5th. Meeting minutes have been sent to the Historical Commission.

- Working on flyers to advertise the Speaker Series.
- Asked commission members for any feedback on Speaker Series – consensus that members are pleased about the program, past and as scheduled for this Spring. Kudos to Carol.
- Looking at a source for small house signs to designate historic resources within the township. Bob R. will send some information on costs. Jim B. did some research on green historic marker signs installed throughout Caln Township by the Old Caln Historical Society for someone that had made an inquiry; he will forward the information along to the Historical Commission. The commission members like the idea of providing historic marker signs for resources in the Township.

Planning Commission

- At their March 3rd meeting, the Board of Supervisors gave conditional use approval with 27 conditions for the development of the Plank/McCausland tract – expect preliminary land development plan in April or May.
- Preserve at Horseshoe Meadows (Osbourne Rd.) – The Preliminary Land Development Plan for the project was presented to the Planning Commission (PC) at their February meeting; the PC has given recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for approval (meeting next week). Structures are all over 300 feet from Locust Knoll Farm so there is no trigger for an HRIS.

- 170 Crawford Rd. (adjacent to HR-37) – application to sub-divide 3 acres off larger parcel. Already been through special exception process for steep slopes and on-site sewage disposal.

EB Township Updates

No updates

Action Steps:

John B. – Call Sandy Martin and ask for updated plans re: Hadfield Rd. Bridge.

John B. – Facilitate post in MileMarker/email blast looking for new members.

John B. – Get more information about materials Guthrie family would like to have digitized.

Jim B. – Explore flexibility of density restrictions.

Jim B. – Contact owners of Diane Hammel Trust property re: HC site visit to the HR.

Jim B. – Photos to line drawings (post as coloring pages).

Sharon B. – Contact local schools and colleges re: student to do some research for HC.

Jim B., Francis T, Mark M. – Work with owner of 11 Highspire Rd regarding restoration of the outhouse.

Sharon B. – continue to work on Archives

TBD – work on updating HR Survey