October 13, 2011 7:30 p.m.
Carriage House

The regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission was held tonight. Members present were: Steve Banks, Cynthia Breen, David Harrower, Lois Hirsch, James McCann, Dorothy Spruill, Jack Washington, Mary Washington, and Joyce Werkman and Tom Wieckowski Staff present was: Bryan T. Havir, Assistant Township Manager. (See attached attendance list).

1. ***Call to Order*** – Chairman Steve Banks called the meeting to order at 7:40 P.M.

2. ***Acceptance of Minutes*** – Mr. Banks asked for approval of the September meeting minutes. Mr. Jack Washington made a motion to accept the September 8, 2011 meeting minutes as submitted; seconded by Mr. Wieckowski and unanimously approved.

3. ***Committee Reports***

A. Education Committee – Ms. Cohen was not present but substituted a written report for review. Mr. Banks reported that the Open House for the Special Exhibition of Historic Flags of the United States of America with speaker, Mike Axelrod, Director of Development and Education Program for the Philadelphia Flag Day Association was well attended. Mrs. Cohen wished to thank all those who contributed to the program and the Jenkinstown Lyceum for funding this program by a recent grant. An honorarium was suggested for the presentation. Mr. Havir asked to have the specific information on who is the recipient of the honorarium for processing. Mr. Banks said that Ms. Cohen's report states that the next event will be Black History Month on February 12, 2012 with Mr. Pickens presenting family history. If anyone has any suggestions for National Preservation Month, please contact Ms. Cohen.

B. Preservation Committee Report – Mr. Harrower had no report to offer.

C. Museum Committee Report – Mrs. Spruill offered her report on the following:

The owner of the c.1721 chair donated to the Richard Wall Museum is moving in the very near future and asked when the c. 1721 chair could be picked up. Mrs. Spruill reminded the members about a motion that was previously approved to pay the costs of moving and insurance for the chair to be relocated from Florida to the Richard Wall House Museum. Mrs. Spruill recently spoke to the moving company who could not offer any specific time for pickup and possibly could not hold their previous quote. Therefore, it was suggested that Ms. Werkman, who will be traveling to Florida in December in her van, could pick up the chair while in the area and asked if the Commission could offer to pick up the extra expenses of travel and lodging for her to do so. Mr. Harrower made a motion to accept Ms. Werkman's offer and stipulated that the expenses should not exceed $300.00; second by Mrs. Mary Washington and unanimously approved.

Mrs. Spruill recently visited the Wall House to work with the docents to see how well they had retained the historical facts and information provided to them about the Richard Wall House. Following that visit, Mrs. Spruill and Mr. Banks planned on visiting the history teacher overseeing the docent program about the information that has been provided.

Mrs. Spruill announced that the Museum received some acquisitions recently: a Cub Scout Flag; one of the throws that the Museum sold in the past has come back to the Museum and military equipment. Mrs. Spruill checked with Michaels Crafts Store and Mr. Harrower followed up with the Art of Framing Store in Jenkintown for a quote to frame two paintings that were recently donated. He passed out two samples of frames that he was quoted on ($220 for the smaller painting and $250 for the larger painting). One has condition issues needing repair. Mr. Harrower will be contacting Lynne Karr at Victoriannie Antiques and Custom Framing for an additional estimate and will report back next meeting. Mrs. Spruill noted that the artwork would probably be hung near a gilded mirror so the two samples submitted might not fit.

Mrs. Spruill inquired about a painting donated to the Museum this year so that she could write a note to acknowledge the donation.

D. Market Day Report - Mrs. Hirsch provided an update on Market Day. Mrs. Hirsch stated that they had 26 vendors which produced revenue of $660. She noted that two things that possibly contributed to lower attendance this year were the prediction of rain and downturn of the economy. Mr. Harrower noted that approximately 100 visitors to the Richard Wall House Museum signed the visitors log. That, by itself, made it a success. Discussion ensued about the work that goes into the event with only a few volunteers and the question was asked was it worth it. It was noted that more volunteers are always needed. Mrs. Spruill added that perhaps it was time to do something different. Perhaps call it Wall House Day or have a local art show included in the event. Mrs. Spruill noted that in the past the Antique Show was very successful but overtime dropped off. Mr. McCann wished to add to Mrs. Spruill's idea about an art show. He suggested involving the High School history, art and photography classes in an art assignment where they develop their own media for representing the various historical sites in the Township and display it at the Market Day event. This could raise awareness through the students and they would have all year to work on the project. This could be expanded to Arcadia University and local artists as well. It was also suggested to have more food vendors with different ethnic food. Mr. Banks thanked the members for their good suggestions.

4. Chairman's Report – Mr. Banks had no report.

5. Staff Report

A. Mr. Havir noted that the Friends of the Cresheim Trail Committee have asked to use the Carriage House for their next meeting the week of October 24-27, 2011 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. If

no one has objections, he will let the Committee Chair know that it is available, subject to his ability (Mr. Havir) to attend the meeting and open and lock the Carriage House.

B. Mr. Havir stated that the new janitorial company (Emerga Support Services, LLC) who is providing cleaning services to the Richard Wall House on Fridays from 10 – 2 p.m. has experienced some problems with access. Mr. Havir asked the Commission members if they would recommend that Emerga be given access to the building by a security code and key. Discussion ensued and Mr. Havir will discuss with Emerga management. Mr. McCann made a motion to allow Emerga to have access code and sign the key in and out via a log at the Police Department (procedure determined by Mr. Havir); seconded by Mr. Harrower and unanimously approved.

6. Old Business

A. Status of Museum Cataloguing Project - Mr. Havir stated that Ms. Karen Karuza's (project consultant) Report No. 9 was e-mailed to the Commission members. Ms. Karuza continues to work at the Museum on Friday afternoons and Commission members can visit with her at that time. Mr. Havir noted that Ms. Karuza has offered group training on the Past Perfect Software for anyone who is interested. Mrs. Spruill stated that she felt that only Mrs. Spruill and Mrs. Cohen need training. Discussion continued and it was suggested that perhaps Ms. Karuza could write a manual on access to the past perfect software under her contract, if the contract was extended. Mr. Havir will discuss that option with Ms. Karuza. Mrs. Spruill felt that more cataloguing needs to be done and she has asked Ms. Karuza to tag and list 1960-1970 items; catalog textiles in the closets and get every room done including drapes. The Commission members had agreed that the museum cataloguing project should be concluded by December. Mrs. Spruill expressed some concern that the project would not be completed by that time. She

asked again if there is still some flexibility with extending the project until June 2012 if necessary. The Commission agreed to revisit the matter next month if it receives a request from the project consultant. Mr. Havir suggested the project consultant attend the meeting and make a presentation.

B. Update on Demolition Permit issued for Heidelberg/Kerlin Farm – Mr. Banks stated that Ed Landau and Ellen Gartner had met with Hugh Beck who had lived at Kerlin Farm as a child in 1940-1950. He is interested in saving the house.

C. Mr. Harrower reported on the proposal he received from Bruce E. Brooks & Associates dated August 30, 2011 for professional engineering consulting services regarding recommendations for improving conditions of the archival storage room in the basement of the Wall House. They will hold their professional services fee as noted in their proposal until next year.

7. New Business

Mr. Havir reviewed the 2012 Capital Budget requests for the **Richard Wall House**: Tree Pruning; Floor Restoration; Climate Control; HVAC; Carriage House re-pointing on rear and side elevation and a few areas on the Museum and fire alarm panel upgrade. **Shovel Shop**: Lease expires in June 2012. Mr. Havir will discuss rental agreement renewal and terms with the tenant starting in January 2012. It was also recommended that a backflow preventer be installed at the Shovel Shop as part of a capital improvement for next year.

Mr. Havir asked that Mr. Banks and/or Mrs. Spruill send him any additional items that need to be considered for an earmark in the Operation Account by tomorrow.

Mr. McCann asked if anyone was interested in touring the Black Horse Inn. The Flourtown Historical Society has moved to the restored inn. Mr. McCann passed around a thank

you note from Richard J. Meyer, Sr. Mr. McCann will try to schedule a tour for those interested. Mr. Harrower noted that he had attended a fundraiser held at Flourtown Country Club in September and would be happy to go back for a tour.

Mr. McCann also mentioned that there were Open Houses on October 23, 2011 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Evans-Mumbower Mill and the Springfield Mill.

Mr. Harrower stated that he will be representing the Historical Commission at the Township's Harvest Festival on October 15, 2011. He will be setting up the table next to the Old York Road Historical Society with Peter Wieck. He will use the new table banner for the event. He will have sign up sheets available and provide Township history articles and maps. He asked if there was anything from the gift shop that could be sold at the event. Mrs. Spruill felt that the Museum's thank you note cards would work well.

8. Other Business: **Appeal No. 3422**. Appeal of Stenton Property, LLC, Owner of premises known as 1627 W. Cheltenham Avenue, La Mott, PA 19027 from Decision of the Zoning Officer for the following Zoning Relief in order to operate an 45' X 40' (1800 s. f.) 4-Bay Automobile Repair Facility on Tract 2 (rear vacant lot) of the Premises. Ms. Werkman asked how the Historical Commission could make a recommendation or issue a statement related to the current zoning issue of the service station property on Cheltenham Avenue near Sycamore Avenue in La Mott. The owner would like to build an additional garage bay on the empty space behind the garage. In essence, this new building is proposed to be built on the last remaining open ground on what was the site of the former Camp William Penn. Discussion ensued about this being private property; however, it is the last remaining parcel of open space in La Mott having historical significance associated with the training camp. It was recommended the Commission focus on the proposed use and how it would impact on the health, safety and

welfare of the residents and neighborhood and the encroachment from Cheltenham Avenue businesses into the La Mott Historical District. Mr. Harrower offered to draft a position statement and e-mail it to Mr. Banks with a copy to the La Mott Board of Historic Architectural Review (BHAR) with recommendations addressing the points discussed. Messrs. Harrower and Banks agreed to attend the Zoning Hearing Board meeting and read the statement into the record of the hearing. Mr. Havir noted that the next Zoning Hearing Board meeting was scheduled for October 17, 2011.

Ms. Werkman inquired about Historic District Gateway Entrance Signs for Wyncote and La Mott BHAR's and asked if funds were still in the capital budget to fabricate the signs. Mr. Havir answered to the affirmative.

Ms. Werkman announced that Civil War Day in Bristol, PA was being held on October 15, 2011.

9. ***Adjournment*** - There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Jack Washington, seconded by Ms. Werkman and approved by the Historical Commission, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

David G. Kraynik
Township Manager

Submitted by: Kathryn McDevitt

MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

Historical Commission Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 13, 2011@ 7:30 P.M.
Carriage House
One Wall Park Drive, Elkins Park, PA 19027

Print Name	Mailing Address	Telephone No.	E-mail Address
Lois Hirsch			
Dorothy Spirll			
J. Werkman			
Dave Harrower			
Tom Wieandowski			
Mary Washington			
Jim McCann			
Stephen Barker			
Jacki Ashburg			
Cynthia Green			