September 8, 2011 7:30 p.m.
Carriage House

The regular meeting of the Historical Commission was held tonight. Members present were: Steve Banks, Barbara Bartlett, Cynthia Breen, David Harrower, Lois Hirsch, Heidi Morein, Dorothy Spruill, Jack Washington, Mary Washington, and Joyce Werkman. 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 June meeting minutes. Ms. Werkman asked for a correction under Item No. 7, New Business to read: Ms. Werkman announced that CROHL will receive a NAACP achievement award for its work. Mrs. Washington made a motion to accept the June 9, 2011 meeting minutes as amended; seconded by Mrs. Hirsch and unanimously approved.

3. ***Committee Reports***

A. Education Committee – Ms. Cohen was not present to offer her report. Mr. Banks stated that the High School docent program has started this fall.

B. Preservation Committee Report – Mr. Harrower reported back on a demolition permit application for 1203 Cheltenham Avenue/North 12th Street regarding a small accessory building (garage or carriage house) in which a person had been living. He said the Committee had determined the application incomplete at the June meeting and the Owner was asked to obtain a structural assessment regarding soundness and/or price for rehabilitation The Owner's Structural Engineer had no comment and instead the Owner subsequently submitted to the Township what seemed to be a home inspection report which recommended gutting the building and installing new installation. Mrs. Washington reported on the map research that she completed. The maps indicated that no building was present in 1897 but a building was present in 1909. Mr. Harrower's opinion at the time was that the elevation walls were sound. However,

at the end of the day, the structure was not worth saving but he indicated that at least the Wissahickon Schist stone should be salvaged. Mr. Havir reported that the Township's Building and Zoning Department personnel advised him that the roof had subsequently caved in following Hurricane Irene on August 28, 2011.

C. Museum Committee Report – Mrs. Spruill offered her report on the following: Fifteen minute tour guidelines – Mrs. Spruill distributed a synopsis and noted that since the volunteer members have changed over the years, this latest abbreviated information could be very helpful to almost anyone (including the newer commission members) giving a tour on Sunday and to new docents. (See attached). She reminded volunteers to write down any questions asked during a tour and she will follow up on that information.

Mrs. Spruill announced that the Museum received some acquisitions recently: a Robert Scholars 1901 typewriter; Wall family pottery/china from England with documentation on chain of possession; a lock 1700 c. from the Wall/Shoemaker family; and two watercolors 1841 and 1890 c., one of the Wissahickon and one of the Tookany Creek in Cheltenham Township. Both were from an art dealer who attended Myers School who wanted them dedicated to a former classmate from La Mott. Discussion ensued about archival framing for the artwork. Mrs. Spruill will check with Michaels and Mr. Harrower will follow up on contacting Lynne Karr at Victoriannie Antiques and Custom Framing at 253 Wyncote Road in Jenkintown and report back at next month's meeting.

Mrs. Spruill announced that she has four volunteers available to offer tours on Market Day scheduled for September 10, 2011. Tours are offered from 10 – 12 a.m. and 1- 4 p.m.

D. Market Day Report - Mrs. Hirsch provided an update on Market Day. Mrs. Hirsch stated that they had 23-24 vendor applications. Please bring baked goods. Plans to address inclement

weather were discussed due to the forecast. Mr. Banks stated he would make a decision about cancelling the event by Friday at 4:00 p.m. He would notify the Public Information officer at the Township Administration Building for public announcements on the website and Channel 42 and then notify Mrs. Hirsch who will institute a phone call chain to advise vendors. Portable toilets were scheduled for delivery on Friday.

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

5. Staff Report

A. Mr. Havir noted that the Secret Places brochures arrived and has been distributed to the Richard Wall House, Glenside Free Library and Elkins Park Library and available at the Township Administration Building. Copies were distributed to the Commission members at the meeting. He noted the Wall House was given a nice write-up in the brochure. Business cards are also being printed by Abington Art Center. The final cost for both items was $61.69.

B. Mr. Havir stated that the new janitorial company (Emerga Support Services, LLC) is providing cleaning services to the Richard Wall House on Fridays from 10 – 2 p.m. Please report any issues to Mr. Banks, Mrs. Spruill or Mr. Havir.

6. Old Business

A. Status of Museum Cataloguing Project - Mr. Havir stated that Ms. Karuza was supposed to be present tonight to offer an update; however, was unable to attend at the last minute. Mr. Havir noted that it had been decided by the Commission members that the museum cataloguing project should be concluded by December. Mr. Havir expressed some concern that the project could be completed by that time as Mr. Karuza's time is limited and she is spending one half the time, per week, per month on the project. He did note that there is some flexibility with

extending the project until June 2012 if necessary but Ms. Karuza said she could complete the work by year's end.

B. Update on Demolition Permit issued for Heidelberg/Kerlin Farm – Mr. Banks stated that there was nothing recent to report except that there has been contact via e-mail with another descendant and members are working on setting a date to meet with them.

Mr. Havir noted that Ed Landau was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Old York Road Historical Society (OYRHS) at its annual meeting. Mr. Havir mentioned that Mr. Landau reported to the OYRHS that he had been in contact once again with Mr. John Benedetto, Architect, concerning the Kerlin property.

C. Mr. Harrower offered an update on a proposal he received from Bruce E. Brooks & Associates dated August 30, 2011 (see attached) for professional engineering consulting services (not to exceed $2,000) regarding recommendations for improving conditions of the archival storage room in the basement of the Wall House. Mr. Harrower asked Mr. Havir to analyze recommendations to optimize the room. Mr. Havir asked if engineering drawings/diagrams were included as a work product in the proposal. Mr. Harrower assumed there would be some diagrams. Mr. Havir also asked if Brooks & Associates would be able to hold pricing to the beginning of next year. Mr. Harrower stated he would follow up. Mr. Harrower also noted that he would be donating his professional time to the project to assist. The Historical Commission welcomed the proposal and recommended that the cost be included in its FY 2012 Capital Budget request for an amount not to exceed $2,000. Mrs. Spruill noted that the proposal should be read carefully as there is some language about the Engineer not responsible for ruining the structure. She expressed concern about the many past renovations to the building.

7. New Business

A. Review of Draft "Historic Resource Overlay District Ordinance - Mr. Havir stated that two copies of the Draft Historic Resources Overlay Ordinance were e-mailed to the Historical Commission members – one showing the changes that have been recommended. Mr. Havir stated the ordinance requires a BHAR review for a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for demolition of any building in the Wyncote and La Mott Historic Districts as well as a COA for demolition of any buildings included in the Cultural Resources Survey (CRS) which are now defined as local landmarks. A COA for demolition of a local landmark must first be submitted to the Planning Commission for review along with supporting documents, such as a structural report and cost repair estimates. The Planning Commission recommends to the Township Public Works Committee worthiness of issuing a COA for demolition. The Public Works Committee has final say to approve or deny. The Building and Zoning Director then issues a permit.

Mrs. Washington asked if it goes before the Historical Commission for input. Mr. Havir stated the first draft did have it. The majority of the Ad Hoc Zoning Committee believed the Planning Commission should review. Mrs. Washington made a motion to include that the Historical Commission offer an opinion on historical background and importance of building; seconded by Jack Washington and unanimously approved.

Mr. Harrower made a motion to recommend that the Draft Ordinance be amended to include this revision and then be scheduled for a public meeting; seconded by Jack Washington and unanimously approved.

B. Review of NEPA Survey - Mr. Havir reviewed the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's notification of a NEPA Survey – Proposed Cellular Antenna Site, Arcadia University, 450 S. Easton Road, Glenside, Montgomery County, PA 19038. Mr. Havir noted

that Building and Zoning has not received a permit application. The Historical Commission reviewed the documentation and it was the consensus that there is no adverse impact to the historical site known as Grey Towers. The proposed cellular antenna appears to be on a dormitory building fronting Church Road. Mr. Washington made a motion to recommend endorsement with the standard recommendation which includes city lights blue paint; seconded by Mr. Harrower and unanimously approved.

C. Mr. Havir made reference to the Pennypack Farm and Education Center's Farm & Historic Garden Tour on September 18, 2011 which includes three houses in Cheltenham Township: The Elkins Estate, 7607 Spring Avenue and 203 Heacock Avenue. Mr. Banks stated that the Historical Commission members should support this type of event.

D. Mr. Harrower wished to have some maintenance issues addressed as follows: 1) life safety issue of batteries needed for emergency lights located in the archive room and by the stairs and 2) tripping hazard at the rear entrance door of the Wall House. Mr. Havir asked Mr. Harrower to show him the area at the end of the meeting.

E. Mr. Harrower noted that he reserved table space at the Township's Harvest Festival on October 15, 2011. He will use the new table banner for the event and will ask for volunteers at the next meeting.

8. ***Adjournment*** - There being no further business, upon motion of Mrs. Washington, seconded by Ms. Morein and approved by the Historical Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

David G. Kraynik
Township Manager

Submitted by: Kathryn McDevitt

MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

Historical Commission Regular Meeting @ 7:30 P.M.

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Carriage House

One Wall Park Drive, Elkins Park, PA 19027

PRINT NAME	ORGANIZATION	TITLE	PHONE	EMAIL
1. Lois H. Hirsch				
2. David I. Harrower				
3. Mary Washington				
4. Jack Washington				
5. Barbara Bartlett				
6. W. Spriell				
7. J Werkman				
8. C. Breen				
9. Heidi Morein				
10. Steve Banks				
11.				
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22.				

Sign In Sheets by Vertex42.com

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Walk through 15 minute tour

COLONIAL HERB GARDEN

There were no pharmacies nor grocery stores in early rural Colonial times
Therefore herbs had to be raised for medicines, housecleaning and cooking

Note the beehive oven, the oldest baking device which predates biblical times

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THE COLONIAL KITCHEN

Note the 1760 original beams and the mortise and tenon construction

fireside cooking and meal customs

COLONIAL BEDROOM

Weaving display from carding to vegetable dying to the loom
Loom size necessitates bedding material to be doubled and sewn by hand as there were no sewing machines

Rope support bed and toilet practices

VICTORIAN ROOM

Hand operated sewing machine, personal hygiene and fashions of the time

ROARING TWENTIES

Here is displayed a flapper's world
Clothing, Entertainment, Travel, Inventions, and the Townships relationship with the Titanic

LIBRARY

We acquaint visitors with important personages of the Township who have attained national interest such as: merchant, John Wanamaker, publisher, Cyrus Curtis, authors, Ezra Pound, Christopher Morley, abolitionist, Lucretia Mott, politician, Benjamin Netanyahu, cinema, Richard Lester of Superman and the Beatles

Empire Drawing Room

The majority of the furnisher was donated by the national Trust.

Wall House Tours

Dorothy Spruill [dls829@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 6:21 PM

To: Dottie Spruill

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docents

Wall House Tours
(INTORDUCTIONS)

A PLEASANT SALUTATION WITH A SMILE. I AM A CHELTENHAM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AND A TOUR GUIDE AT THE WALL HOUSE, WOULD YOU LIKE A TOUR?

Carriage House: I wo uld like to show you the roof construction of the original carriage house

Spring House: This is a two story spring house, the upper floor had many uses,

Colonial type herb garden: In the colonial days there were no grocery nor drug stores, therefore much had to be raised at the households

Building: Note the differences in the stone work which we talked about, ------- take note of the beehive oven and the pump which is over an existing well

Kitchen: ' This room was built in 1760 which was the second addition to the original log cabin, "
"Please look at the ceiling," Note the mortise and tenon."
Finish describing the architecture and the Bee Hive oven before discussing the contents. "This is primarily a colonial kitchen however the room has been in use until the end of the 1970s therefore it reflects many ages."

Stairway to basement: "Please look at the original walls, which were constructed vertically which was the English manner of the period."

Basement: "First we will look at the 1682 retaining wall of the original log cabin"

Tools "This exhibit displays only a part of our collection. Let me first show you the mortise and tenon machine" Be sure to go to the ice exhibit as well as the other tools. Mention that there is also an achieve room on this level which is temperature controlled for textiles.

Dining room: "This room is part of the first addition to the house which was in the 1730s, though it was modernized in the 1920's, we can still show you how it looked then and how it was constructed."

Flapper Room: 'Welcome to the Flapper Room. In the roaring twenties women had a clothing revolution. They removed their corsets and they adopted loose fitting garments and short skirts. Many of the items pertaining to the roaring twenties are in this room"

Colonial Bedroom: "Again we see the original ceiling and the beaded beams and the original floor which is also the kitchen ceiling. The staircase we showed you in the kitchen is in this corner, the second door opens to the staircase which leads to the attic. and now I would like to show you how people slept and made material in the late 1700s"

Addenda

The military room is closed until further notice. It will be in a new location. On the tour it may still be told where the slaves were hidden on the Underground Railroad.

South end of parlor: The furnishings in this portion of the room are of the Empire and Victorian eras. There is a listing on the table behind the gold sofa designating which pieces were donated by the National Trust. This information is important to read on the tour.

Fashion room: the quilt is reversible, and also came from the National Trust.

Fashion room: (passing thru) "Though this room is older than the Colonial Bedroom, it looks more modern and newer, this is because of the renovations of the 1920s. Here is the window which replaced a door leading to the privy---- Here we can show you turn of the century fashions".

Library: "this was originally the master bedroom of the 1860 house, it now contains the archives and memorabilia of Cheltenham Township. In the book case we have publications about Cheltenham people, books by Cheltenham authors, the histories of Cheltenham and books notating the events which touched the lives of the residents. ---------- On the shelves we have-----"

Nursery: "This room was a bedroom for one of the sons of the last resident, Mrs. Fleck Pike. Notice the closet for his belongings, the tiny shelves and hooks for clothes. The toys and furniture were used by Cheltenham children".
. (and then show the doll house)

Military room: This section was modernized in the 1980's and we think it was used originally as servants quarters and later as storage .
It has an attic above where slaves were housed on the underground railroad. This exhibit has men's fashions, and military memorabilia beginning with the Civil War.

There will be temporary exhibits in the first floor hallway , dining room and living room .
Material will be given when exhibits are changed.

On entering the living room, suffice to say that it once had two fireplaces (see your notes) the mirror was made by one of the Shoemaker family in their Philadelphia factory. I believe in 1860.

Dorothy Spruill, Richard Wall House Museum curator and Chairman Docent Training
215-884-4306 e-mail dls829@gmail.com (please feel free to call)

BRUCE E. BROOKS & ASSOCIATES
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

BRUCE E. BROOKS, P.E.
F. BRADLEY RANDALL, P.E.
JOHN HODOS, JR., P.E.
Principals

DANETTE STEFFISH, P.E.
GEORGE D. SWISHER, P.E.
CHARLES S. ARGUE, JR., P.E.
TAMI KNOPP, P.E.
Associates

August 30, 2011

Cheltenham Township Historical Commission
8230 Old York Road
Elkins Park, PA 19027

Attn: David Harrower

Re: Pre-design Mechanical and Electrical Feasibility Study
Richard Wall House Museum Archive

Dear Dave:

We are pleased to offer Consulting Engineering services at the Richard Wall House Museum, Elkins Park, PA. The project involves improving the effectiveness of the archival storage space at the House Museum. The current archive space is located in the basement and is served as one zone from the air handling unit for the first floor. The space is used for the storage of textiles (mainly antique clothing) and paper products. The current systems do not provide adequate space conditioning.

The purpose of this study is to develop a mechanical and electrical scope of work that meets the needs of the Museum and will be cost effective to construct, economical to operate and easy to maintain. In addition to the current basement location, an alternative location on the third floor will also be investigated.

Toward this end, we intend to perform the following tasks:

1. Review existing architectural, mechanical and electrical drawings that may be available.

1. Field survey the visually accessible existing systems, in cooperation with the Township Maintenance Personnel.

2. Recommend outside investigation or testing of system components such as underground piping, switchgear, concealed ductwork, etc., as necessary to determine their condition.

3. Meet with you and other representatives of the Museum to determine expectations for the project, discuss approaches and options for the Mechanical and Electrical systems in the building and reach a consensus on the most favorable system or systems for further investigation, based on budget, performance and other easily determined factors.

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www.brucebrooks.com

4. Perform a code analysis as it relates to the Mechanical and Electrical Systems.

5. Prepare preliminary HVAC load calculations for each of the potential archival storage locations.

6. Prepare preliminary electrical load calculations, based on the various mechanical schemes.

7. Based on our meeting with the Museum Staff, and our investigation of the building, generate feasible options for the Mechanical and Electrical systems. For each option, provide a brief written description, list its advantages and disadvantages and provide estimates of probable construction cost based on square footage, volume or other unit costs.

8. Meet with you and other representatives of the Museum Staff to present the feasible options that have been generated, answer questions and assist the Building Committee in making an informed choice of Mechanical and Electrical Systems for the building.

Our final report will be provided electronically in PDF format.

The basis of compensation for services is to be a fixed fee of Two Thousand Dollars ($2,000) and is to be paid monthly, net 30 days, based on the progress to date.

Additional services that may become necessary during the course of this study, and when specifically approved by your office, are also available at the following rate schedule:

Principal	$185.00/Hour
Lead Engineer	$130.00/Hour
Project Manager	$125.00/Hour
Project Engineer	$90.00 to $115.00/Hour
Staff Engineer	$80.00 to $90.00/Hour
Staff Designer	$70.00 to $80.00/Hour
Draftsperson	$55.00 to $70.00/Hour

Direct costs incurred in the preparation of this report, including photography, long distance telephone, courier, and postage charges will be reimbursed to the Engineer at his cost and are not included in the estimate of services. There will not be a mileage charge.

Invoices are due and payable within 30 days of issue. A monthly charge of one percent (1%) per month will be collected on all unpaid balances over 30 days. If the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission (CTHC) fails to make payment when due, the Engineer may suspend performance of services upon five (5) calendar days' written notice to the CTHC. The Engineer shall have no liability whatsoever to the Client for any costs or damages as a result of such suspension.

In an effort to resolve any conflicts that arise during the design or construction of the project or following the completion of the project, the CTHC and Engineer agree that all disputes between them arising out of or relating to this agreement shall be submitted to non-binding mediation unless the parties mutually agree otherwise.

We can assure you that we appreciate the opportunity of working with the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission on this project. If the above terms are satisfactory, please return an executed copy of this proposal to our office.

Very truly yours,

John Hodos, Jr., P.E.

By: _____ Date: _____

_____ _____

JH/jh
BBA-Wall House Archive Study