January 12, 2012 7:30 p.m.
Carriage House

The regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission was held tonight. Members present were: Barbara Bartlett, Louise Cohen, David Harrower, Lois Hirsch, James McCann, Heidi Morein, Jack Washington, Mary Washington, Joyce Werkman and Tom Wieckowski. Guest present was: Ed Landau. Staff present was: Bryan T. Havir, Assistant Township Manager. (See attached attendance list).

1. *Call to Order* – Vice Chairman Harrower called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M.

2. Acceptance of Minutes – Mr. Harrower asked for approval of the December 8, 2011 meeting minutes. Mr. Jack Washington made a motion to accept the December 8, 2011 meeting minutes as corrected; seconded by Mr. McCann and unanimously approved.

Under the discussion regarding the December 8, 2011 minutes, Mrs. Washington referenced Item 7. New Business – 1811 Willow Avenue Discussion- and asked that the list that Mrs. Spruill referred to in the Wall House Museum from Norristown with every Township street address from c. 1700 be presented at the next meeting for members review.

3. *Committee Reports*

A. Education Committee – Ms. Cohen announced that the theme and speaker for Black History Month had changed and will now be presented by Mr. Joseph Becton who will lecture on "Montgomery County African Americans and the Civil War: Where were they from? Where did they serve? And after the war, where did they go"? The Black History Month lecture is scheduled for Sunday, February 12, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at Curtis Hall. Flyers are being prepared for distribution. Ms. Cohen stated that e-mails have been sent to approximately 95 contacts. Ms. Cohen noted that National Preservation Month lectures will be provided by either Mr. Pickens or Mr. Harrower in May.

Mr. Havir announced that the commission has received a grant from the Jenkinstown Lyceum for providing two lectures in 2012 for Black History Month and National Preservation Month. Mr. Havir reviewed the terms of the grant which states that advertising should be provided at least 30 days prior to the event, and at least thirty (30) copies of the flyer must be provided to the Lyceum President.

Ms. Cohen circulated the docent schedule.

B. Preservation Committee Report – Mr. Harrower deferred his report to later in the meeting.

C. Museum Committee Report – Mrs. Spruill was not present to offer a report. However, Mr. Harrower updated the members on the museum cataloging project regarding shelving for archival boxes.

Mr. McCann stated he had visited the Museum this past Sunday and disconnected the hose from the outside spigot and suggested that Township staff shut the water supply off from the inside. Mr. Harrower mentioned the use of the Maintenance Request form. Mr. McCann also noted that several window candles had burned out bulbs and upon further inspection, felt that several of the window candles should be replaced. Discussion ensued about replacement light bulbs.

4. Chairman's Report – Mr. Harrower asked for two volunteers to serve as the nominating committee for election of officers. Mr. Wieckowski and Ms. Morein volunteered to serve on the committee and report back at next month's meeting.

5. Staff Report – Mr. Havir announced that the water damage to the third floor at the Richard Wall Museum was documented and an insurance claim with Delaware Valley Insurance Trust was filed. The Township was asked to secure quotes to repair the interior and exterior damage.

Insurance will not cover certain maintenance items (mortar and flashing around gables) but will cover interior plastering and painting to correct the interior water damage. Early estimates suggest approximately $8,000 for mortar repairs for one of the gable ends. These items are not earmarked in the capital budget for 2012 and will need to be reprogrammed from another project list in the budget such as the upgrades to the archival storage room.

6. Old Business

A. Status of Museum Cataloguing Project: Mr. Havir reported that the museum cataloguing consultant has submitted her final report of all items documented. Fifteen (15) copies of the report are provided in a binder and CD's. He noted that the funding source needs to be listed in the documents. Paper copies are numbered and in individual envelopes. Discussion ensued regarding the cost of additional boxes and shelving needed to complete the project and which funds would be used for the purchases. It was noted that a quotation had been secured for the boxes which will cost approximately $400.00. Mr. Harrower made a motion to purchase the boxes as a first priority; seconded by Mr. Washington and unanimously approved. Mr. Harrower reported that the second priority would be to purchase ten metal shelving units for the third floor work space and climate control room, and that he had spoken with Cheltenham's Home Depot and the Township could purchase the units for $65.00 each. Mr. Harrower made a motion to purchase the ten shelving units for $650.00 with funds from the Historical Commission's #92-419 operating account; seconded by Mr. Wieckowski.

Mr. Harrower also noted that he had the opportunity to work with Ms. Karuza on the pastperfect program search function and was confident and pleased with this tremendous resource and felt it was heading in the right direction.

Mr. Havir stated that he would like to list as an agenda item for the March meeting a discussion on developing deassession and acquisition policies of donated items and policy and procedures for inviting the public in for research.

B. Report on Framing Two Prints - Mr. Harrower stated that he would like Mrs. Spruill to assist with the selection of the frames for the two watercolor paintings when she is available next month and he would like to table this item to next month's agenda. Discussion ensued regarding encumbrance of funds being applied to 2012 budget.

C. Update on Kerlin Farm – Mr. Landau provided a brief update that the house was still there, and ways to save the house continue. As mentioned previously, there is a contractor who is familiar with the house and feels he can save it. The outside appearance of the house would be retained in historic terms but the interior can have any type of renovation. The thought was to divide the house into three parts or individual units each with a kitchen and bath and full basements named after the families who lived there (Bolten, Jones and Haines). However, three people would be needed to purchase the units.

D. Report on Historical Research of:

- Ashbourne Country Club, Cheltenham – Mr. Harrower reported that Historical Commission members, Jim McCann, Heidi Morein, Mary Washington and he visited the property on Monday, January 9, 2012 with Township Staff. The Historical Commission had requested the opportunity to document the history of what was there through photographs. Mr. McCann provided four prints of multiple buildings. During the recent visit, the members found the exterior of the Cottage (Farmhouse-Permit No. 5) to be structurally sound and also discovered the walls of a style of barn called a "Bank Barn". Of the five applications, the Cottage House is considered as

having the most historic value. Demolition Permit No. 1 (Half-way House); Permit No. 2 (Pro Shop); Permit No. 3 (Cart Barn); and Permit No. 4 (Ranch House) have not been found to have historic value. The buildings have been subject to vandalism and therefore present some safety concerns.

Mrs. Washington continues her research and presented map research. Additionally, there is a reference to a T. Buckman family from an 1849 map found in the Cheltenham Tri Centennial Book. A Thomas Buckman came to America with William Penn on the "Welcome'. There is also a reference to Henry Carlton Adams' house, called Lifford Hall, which later became the first club house of the Ashbourne Country Club. Reference was made to renovations to the club house by Rothschild in the 1920's. Additionally, Mr. Harrower had found an article in "Progressive Architecture", 1954 indicating that the current club house received a design citation. The architects were Thalheimer & Weitz. With this information, perhaps the owner will assess value.

Ms. Morein added that Mr. McCann's prints are good. The farmhouse is charming. Ms. Morein asked about a Historic Preservation Ordinance. Mr. Harrower agreed to forward a draft ordinance.

Mr. Harrower will write up a summary and provide it to the Township Staff to share with the developer, Matrix Corporation, indicating that the Farmhouse is structurally sound and is properly secured and should be considered for adaptive re-use. The report will make several recommendations for adaptive re-uses.

- 1811 Willow Avenue, La Mott - The La Mott BHAR did request assistance from the Historical Commission to conduct additional research. Mrs. Washington noted that

the back structure in question looks to be on the 1909 Atlas map but not on the 1897 map. It is not found on the 1877 or 1871 map which would indicate it was not built before the Civil War. A family name of Johnson was found. Mrs. Washington will research further. Ms. Werkman stated the nails in the structure are cut nails. Ms. Werkman stated the building is fragile. It was decided to get BHAR information next meeting and send a report to Mr. Reitano.

7. ***New Business*** – Mr. Harrower noted that a concerned resident recently contacted him about the battle of Edge Hill and the need to expand upon the historical information for Edge Hill that is listed on the Township's website. Mr. Harrower asked for volunteers and Mr. Wieckowski and Mrs. Washington agreed to conduct research about the importance of the area and review the Township website about accuracy of statements and report back at a future Historical Commission meeting.

8. ***Adjournment*** - There being no further business, upon motion of Mrs. Washington, seconded by Mr. McCann and approved by the Historical Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

David G. Kraynik
Township Manager

Submitted by: Kathryn McDevitt

MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

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

Thursday, January 12, 2012

Carriage House

One Wall Park Drive, Elkins Park, PA 19027

(Please Print Clearly)

Print Name	Mailing Address (only if different)	Telephone Number (only if different)	E-mail Address (only if different
James J. McGann III			
Jack Washington			
Mary Washington			
Dave Harrower			
Barbara Bartlett			
Louise Chen			
Joyce Werkman			
Lois H. Hirsch			
Tom Wirth			
H. Morein			
E. Landau			