

The regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission was held tonight.

Members present were: Stephen Banks, David Harrower, Lois Hirsch, James McCann, Dorothy Spruill, John F. Washington, Jr., Mary Washington, Joyce Werkman and Tom Wieckowski.

Staff present was: Bryan T. Havir, Assistant Township Manager. Guest present: Peter Elkins Sinkler. (See attached attendance list).

**1. *Call to Order*** – Chairman Harrower, called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M. and made a few announcements.

**2. *Acceptance of Minutes*** – Mr. Harrower asked for a motion to approve the March 8, 2012 meeting minutes. Mrs. Washington would like a correction on page five, Item 6. D. *Historical Research of: Ashbourne County Club*. Mr. Harrower found the aerial views. Mr. Banks made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected; seconded by Mr. McCann and unanimously approved.

**3. *Committee Reports***

A. Education Committee – Ms. Cohen was not present to offer her written report. Mr. Harrower announced that flyers for the National Preservation Month lecture on May 10, 2012 sponsored by Jenkinstown Lyceum were available for distribution by members to local vendors. Publicity for the event was carried by the Township website, Channel 42 and the Times Chronicle.

Mr. Harrower also noted that volunteers are needed for the docent schedule.

B. Preservation Committee Report – Mr. Harrower stated that since he is now Chairman of the Commission, he will be relinquishing his role as Chairman of the Preservation Committee. He invited anyone of the members interested in working on the Preservation Committee to please contact him.

C. Museum Committee Report – Mrs. Spruill presented her written report (See attached).

Mrs. Spruill announced a reception for the Quilt Exhibit on May 6, 2012 from 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at the Richard Wall Museum. Additional publicity was discussed for the exhibit in the form of an additional press release to the Times Chronicle, additional e-notifications and continued advertisement on Channel 42. Ms. Werkman also suggested Citizens Alert. Mrs. Spruill will contact the Township Public Information Officer. Mr. Harrower noted that he will be working with Ms. Gibson on the Historical Commission website updates.

Mr. Harrower noted that the Richard Wall Museum needs a replacement answering machine. Ms. Werkman and Mr. John Washington, Jr. noted that they had coupons from Office Max. Mrs. Spruill made a motion to purchase a new answering machine not to exceed \$75.00; seconded by Lois Hirsch. The motion was approved.

#### **4. *Chairman's Report* –**

Mr. Harrower mentioned that a reception for the Quilt Exhibit has been scheduled for May 6, 2012 from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Werkman noted that both she and Mrs. Spruill attended the Heritage Commission of Delaware County Presentation: Showing and Knowing: How to Create Meaningful Displays held on March 24, 2012: Speaker: Director of Collections/Curator of Chester County Historical Society. Mr. Harrower asked how she felt about the Richard Wall Museum (RWH) displays. Ms. Werkman replied that the RWH is doing very well.

Mr. Harrower also announced an on-going Homeowners' Workshop series presented by Preservation Alliance.

Mr. Harrower asked for input on future lecture meetings. He received some feedback regarding increasing attendance by moving the lecture time back to 7:30 p.m. instead of 8:00 p.m. Discussion ensued about moving the regular meeting time up to 6:30 p.m. from 7:00 p.m. on Thursday evening lecture events in February and May. Mrs. Spruill made a motion to conduct the regular Commission meeting from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. and starting the lectures at 7:30 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. Washington and unanimously approved.

Mr. Harrower then discussed the lecture events for the 2012-2013 Township calendar as follows:

September 8, 2012	Market Day (Rain Date: September 9, 2012)
October, 2012	Women's History Celebration
February 14, 2013	Black History Month
May 9, 2013	National Historic Preservation Month

Mr. Harrower referenced the portraits donated by Gail Wunderle and asked for consensus to include Gail Wunderle's donation of portraits which relate to the history of Edge Hill as part of a future special exhibit. The Wunderle Candy Company of Philadelphia was famous for Candy Corn developed by George Renninger of the Wunderle Candy Company in the 1880's. National Candy Corn Day is celebrated on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Washington noted that she has a three ring binder she developed relating to the Old York Road Historical Society's "Cemetery Crawl" with information about the Hillside Cemetery where the Wunderle and Renninger family members are buried.

Mr. Harrower will send out an e-mail notice to the members for Earth Day Work Projects to tidy up the park grounds around the Richard Wall House on Saturday, April 21, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Mr. Havir suggested putting together a press release and e-blast and will coordinate with Ms. Gibson.

**5. Staff Report –**

A. Mr. Havir provided an update on the water damage to the third floor at the Richard Wall Museum. Early proposals from contractors for masonry work both interior and exterior, roof flashing and internal work suggest approximately \$30,000 will be needed. Mr. Havir noted that the historic preservation consultant, Preservation Design Partnership, was awarded a contract for professional consultant services to commence documentation to prepare the plan and specifications for soliciting bids for the repairs. A Request for Proposal from qualified contractors is expected to be mailed out during the second week of May.

B. Shovel Shop Lease – Mr. Havir noted that the current tenant has agreed to renew his lease for a term of three years with incremental increases each year. Mr. Havir noted that there have been no previous problems with the current tenant. Mrs. Washington made a motion to recommend a three-year (7/1/12 to 6/30/15) renewal of a lease for the Shovel Shop with United Medical Records for \$10,200, \$10,500 and \$10,800 annually. Motion was seconded by Mr. Harrower and unanimously approved.

C. Collections – Mr. Havir noted that the Executive Committee had made recommendations for changes to the Mission Statement and had refined the Collections Policy. Mr. Havir made copies of those changes as well as the mission statement last adopted in 1996 and recommendations which were part of a Conservation Assessment Report funded by a Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) grant in 2000 for an overall collection management policy which includes policies for acquisition and deaccession, loans, insurance, inventory, access to records, record policies and disclosure. Mr. Havir encouraged the members to review the documents to discuss at the next meeting so that additional policies may be created and/or

updated. Discussion ensued about current practices for loans and insurance. This discussion was tabled to the May meeting.

**6. Old Business**

*A. Status of Museum Cataloguing Project:* Mr. Havir stated that the consultant's hours have been billed and that the grant project expenses are being tabulated. Mr. Havir is preparing to close out the grant with the National Park Service. Mr. Harrower noted that the consultant will provide one more training session on the Past Perfect Program. Mr. Harrower noted that he is really pleased with the work accomplished and interested to see how it evolves.

B. Mr. Havir revisited the discussion on the NEH Preservation Assistance Grant (\$5,000) regarding additional assessment conservation documentation as a natural progression to the current catalog project. The intent would be to extend documentation of the inventory in the past perfect software program, possibly obtain additional hours to catalog up to 50 more pieces in the clothing and textile collection. Additionally, the scope of work would include developing policy statements on how to transition and make collection information accessible to the public with a link to the Township website. Mr. McCann made a motion for the Township to apply for the grant if Mr. Havir has the time; seconded by Mrs. Washington and approved.

*C. Update on Kerlin Farm* – Mr. Harrower noted the development proposal for 48 townhomes was withdrawn by the developer.

Mr. McCann stated that there had been a citizen meeting regarding the development plan following the last Commission meeting. He also indicated that Commissioner McKeown was planning another community meeting at the Rowland Community Center to discuss development alternatives at the Kerlin Farm site.

Ms. Washington noted that the house is very visible from the street right of way since the trees were cut down.

D. *Historic Resource Overlay District Ordinance* - Mr. Havir, Ms. Mazzaccaro and Mr. Harrower will make a presentation at the May 2, 2012 Public Affairs Committee Meeting regarding the impact and changes created in the Ordinance for the Public Affairs Committee members to make recommendations for the next course of action.

Mr. Banks noted it was his hope that the members of the Public Affairs Committee and Commissioners are familiar with or have kept up to date with the discussions noted in the minutes of various Ad Hoc Zoning, BHAR and Historical Commission meetings during the past year so that this important matter can proceed and not be tabled.

Mr. Harrower also noted that at recent Planning Commission meeting, concerns were expressed that the amount of density permitted under the newly adopted Age Restricted Zoning Overlay District was too great on smaller properties.

#### **7. *Other Business***

Mrs. Washington mentioned that the Cheltenham Methodist Church cemetery had been included on the Old York Road Historical Society's (OYRHS) Cemetery Crawl several years ago and provided a copy of the OYRHS program for the Historical Commission's archives.

Mr. Havir indicated that he had selected a wooden desk chair on wheels and a colonial Windsor type chair from Cheltenham Elementary School with the intent to refurbish and use at the Richard Wall Museum. Mrs. Spruill inquired if there were any hand-made mercer tiles perhaps installed in the doorways and entrances of the school. Mrs. Spruill noted that the Museum was interested in historical components and had tiles from Glenside Elementary, La Mott, Shoemaker and Cheltenham High Schools as part of their exhibits. Mr. McCann asked

when demolition was scheduled. He offered to remove the tiles, if Mr. Havir could get access. Mr. Havir noted that commemorative benches which were donated over the years would be carried forward to the new school.

Mrs. Washington inquired about the ruins of the Cheltenham Military Academy (formerly Lynnewood Elementary) found underground at the site of the current Cheltenham Township Administration Building. Mrs. Washington indicated that there may be mercer tiles in the former kindergarten classrooms and a sundial in front of the school which was dedicated to Principle Whitely. She also noted that Ezra Pond and President Grant's son Jessie attended the military school and that there is a photograph of the two boys displayed in the building.

Mrs. Washington noted that a member of the Shoemaker family from Atlanta had begun to research the family genealogy and visited on March 29, 2012.

Chairman Harrower introduced Mr. Peter Elkins Sinkler, descendant of the Elkins family. Mr. Sinkler had recently visited an Open House at the Elkins Estate. He was pleased to meet with the members of the Commission and expressed his interest in trying to create a new vision for potential buyers in preserving the Elkins Estate. Discussion ensued about the condition of the mansion and the financial situation of the Land Conservancy of Elkins Park, Inc. Mr. Sinkler is most interested to see the family legacy continued and not to forget the families and their contributions. His vision would be to have an educational facility occupy the estate. Mr. Sinkler presented the Historical Commission with a copy of the family tree.

"Moment in History". Various members shared historical anecdotes:

- Times Chronicle 21<sup>st</sup> of April 1949, Lynnewood Gardens Apartments , 64 buildings 123 acres (3.68 acres Cheltenham and Penrose Avenue, ten-acre Township Park; largest apartment complex in the state at that time).
- April 12, 1919. Union Avenue Bridge built over the railroad tracks. .

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

- Mr. Wieckowski noted that he attended an Open House at the Harry Deaver Home in Wyncote. The house is in phenomenal shape. The builder was Oliver Perry Smith 1890, a Captain in the Army Spanish American War.

Mr. Wieckowski commented briefly on a recent acquisition for the Old York Road

Historical Society, a Joseph A. Heacock desk being temporarily stored at the Carriage House.

**8. *Adjournment*** - There being no further business, upon motion of Mrs. Washington, seconded by Mr. Wieckowski and approved by the Historical Commission, the meeting adjourned at 9:30

p.m.



David G. Kraycik  
Township Manager

Submitted by: Kathryn McDevitt

Museum Minutes, April 2012

Two training sessions were held, one for commission Members and the other for the hold over high school docents.

A descendent of Sara Wall Shoemaker is visiting in May and I have arranged a meeting with him with another of Sara Wall's relatives.

There will be a tour for mentally disadvantaged young adults on Friday. Since I taught retardates, I decided to do the tour with Louise.

As you know there is an ongoing quilt exhibit until the end of May at the Wall House. For years I have been asked to do this as quilts are supposed to be very popular. In fact there is an exhibit going on in town at the present moment. We have had no increase in visitors. Nancy sent a very good article with pictures to the Times Chronicle and no one to whom I have spoken has seen it. Therefore I would like to see that our information be sent to the Chamber of Commerce web site and also Joyce recommended another web cite for citizens alert. Nancy said that all press releases go on the township web site but I could not find it under that or the Wall House. That does not mean it is not there, but difficult to find especially if you do not know what you are looking for. The quiltsa range from the Civil War to modern and Joyce has supplied a diagram of quilt patterns know only to runaway slaves to help them on their journey.

Dorothy Spruill, Ch.

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**MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST**

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

**Thursday, April 12, 2012**

**Carriage House**

**One Wall Park Drive, Elkins Park, PA 19027**

*(Please Print Clearly)*

<b>Print Name</b>	<b>Mailing Address (only if different)</b>	<b>Telephone Number (only if different)</b>	<b>E-mail Address (only if different)</b>
Louis H. KIRSCH			
Stephen Banks			
Tom Woodh			
Mary Washington			
John Washington Jr			
James J. McCANN <sup>III</sup>			
Peter Elkins Sinkler	73 N. Danbury Circle Coatesville PA 19320	484-574-5394	petersinkler@gmail.com
Werkman			
Dorothy Spruill			
David Harrower			