

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

Members present were: Stephen Banks, Barbara Bartlett, Louise Cohen, David Harrower, Lois Hirsch, James McCann, Mary Washington, Joyce Werkman and Tom Wieckowski. Staff present was: Bryan T. Havir, Assistant Township Manager. (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 accept the May 10, 2012 meeting minutes. Mr. Harrower noted two corrections as follows under Chairman's Report: Mr. Harrower announced an upcoming Northern Pennsylvania Railroad presentation at Whitpain Historical Society in June or July by Mr. Woodland from the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum.

Mr. Harrower also noted that Mr. Davis has offered to give the Museum videotapes of several lectures/presentations. Mr. McCann made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected; seconded by Mr. Banks and unanimously approved.

3. *Committee Reports*

A. Education Committee – Ms. Cohen asked for suggestions for lecture topics for Historical Preservation and Black History Months. Ms. Cohen also noted that volunteers are needed for the docent schedule and she distributed a sign-up sheet.

B. Preservation Committee Report – Mr. Harrower again inquired about interest from members in assisting with the Preservation Committee.

Ms. Cohen inquired about the Commission's ability to comment on renovations to historic properties such as paving. It was explained that there is a protocol in place when demolition applications are filed with the Township's Building and Zoning Department that the

Historical Commission is given the ability to review and offer comment prior to the Township taking action on a permit. Discussion ensued about permits, square footage, and stormwater ordinance regulations.

C. Museum Committee Report – Mrs. Cohen reported on Mrs. Spruill’s behalf:

- School tour for McKinley Elementary School, Abington and Myers School, Cheltenham were conducted in May. The student docents were very organized and did an excellent job. The head of the social studies department from the High School was in attendance during the entire day. May first timers from the Historical Commission did an admirable job as tour guides. The principal is planning another trip for next year.
- Mrs. Spruill has tried to contact members of the old York Road Garden Club regarding maintenance of the Herb Garden; however, the Club has recessed for the summer months.
- The Richard Wall House Museum has received a pamphlet about Richard Rothe, a former gardener of the Elkins Estate and a cemetery guide concerning many former Cheltenham residents from the Old York Road Historical Society. Letti Moon donated an 1891 recipe book and Mrs. Spruill donated several early 20th century cookbooks.
- Two descendants of Sarah Wall visited the Wall House, one who resides in Glenside and the other from North Carolina.
- Regina Banks has offered to work on identification signs for the exhibits.
- New Exhibition – items seldom or never seen from the Wall House archives are being placed in a new manner. They include domestic, office and fashion representation. Mrs. Cohen suggested an interactive project “Do you know what this it?”
- Misses Breen, Cohen and Spruill are beginning to inventory items other than textile and tools.
- Despite promises to continue serving during the summer, no school docents have been available for the last two weeks.
- Thanks to Joyce Werkman for lending materials and participating in the setups for the Quilt Exhibit and to Rickie Forster for the loan of two Shoemaker Family Quilts.

Ms. Cohen noted that she had little success with accessing pastperfect on the computer.

4. Chairman’s Report –

A. Mr. Harrower extended thanks to Jack and Mary Washington for their assistance with providing tours in February for the Morgan Log House; in March for the Quaker Sunday School from Chestnut Hill and in May to the Retired Citizens Group.

B. Mr. Harrower noted that he will contact Nancy Gibson regarding Student Docent Certificates for volunteer service provided during the past school year. He will compose a letter

and mail to the student docents. For next year, he would like to present the certificates preferably at a School Board meeting or at a Historical Commission Meeting.

C. Mr. Harrower mentioned several upcoming events: Northeast Philadelphia History Network on Tuesday, July 31, 2012 at Whitpain Historical Society; Mumbauer Mills in September and Celtic Festival at Graeme Park on July 21, 2012 on County Line Road behind the Naval Air Station.

D. Mr. Harrower announced that if there are housekeeping concerns at the Richard Wall House, these concerns may be communicated via a complaint log located in the kitchen. Mr. Harrower noted that when repairs and safety items are needed and reported to Administration, such as fence repairs and stone repairs, Administration responds in a timely manner. Mr. McCann thanked the Administration for responding to his observations at the Shovel Shop. Please return room set-ups back to the state they were found so that set ups for the various meeting events do not require last minute changes. Mr. Havar suggested utilizing a calendar for event planning. Mr. Harrower inquired about two items left at the Carriage House. Mr. Havar explained that the two items (White Board and Desk chair), were salvaged from Cheltenham Elementary School prior to demolition. Mr. Harrower mentioned that the small child's rocking chair on the third floor of the Museum needs gluing. Mr. Wieckowski volunteered to work on the repair.

E. Mr. Harrower noted that Mr. DeMaria planted lavender in the herb garden with the commitment to maintain it. He also inquired about additional plantings of lavender in other areas. Mr. Harrower stated that Mr. DeMaria is working with a friend who is a landscape architect to develop a plan for review. Mr. Havar suggested that Mr. Harrower encourage Mr. DeMaria review the Wall Park Master Plan adopted by the Board of Commissioners before making plans for additional suggestions within Wall Park.

Mr. Harrower asked how other Township buildings handle grounds maintenance of plantings. Discussion ensued about planting of native species plants at Park Entrances in various locations throughout the Township. Mr. Havar suggested that Mr. Harrower reach out to Diane Weiner, Restoration Manager at Friends of High School Park, who was working with a former EDTF member to spruce up the park entrances.

F. Mr. Harrower inquired about the procedure followed for recording donations to the Museum. Mr. Havar explained how it has been handled in the past. Donations are deposited by the Accounting Department to the appropriate Account for the Historical Commission. Receipts are forwarded to the Chairman for tracking. Acknowledgements for the donations were discussed. Mr. Harrower stated that he would follow up. Mr. Havar did note that if donations are given for specific purposes they may be recorded in a restricted category. Revenue and Expense Reports were discussed. Mr. Banks and Mr. Harrower will meet to discuss these reports for presentation in September.

G. Mr. Harrower discussed the proposed event listed in the Township calendar for October 28, 2012, titled, Parade of Fashion Exhibit and Household Technology from 4 to 7 p.m. Mr. Banks made a motion to approve \$75.00 for refreshments for the exhibit; seconded by Mr. McCann and unanimously accepted.

5. Staff Report –

A. Mr. Havar provided an update on the water infiltration remediation project on the third floor at the Richard Wall Museum. A pre-bid meeting was held on June 15, 2012. Five qualified contractors were invited to bid; two contractors attended the meeting: Twining Construction and Ted Nichols. Bids are due June 28, 2012. Work should be completed within 30 days of award of contract. The work schedule should be completed by August 31, 2012, before Market Day. Both rooms around the chimneys will need plaster repairs. Items stored in

these areas will have to be moved and/or re-arranged to allow access and covered to protect from dust. Historical Commission members will have to lend some assistance in moving items because it is not in the contractor's scope of work to move room contents. Other rooms in the house will also need to be protected from dust. Mr. Dunleavy will purchase plastic sheeting. The intent is to have Township personnel paint the walls around the chimneys. No one will be allowed on the third floor during restoration. This means the third floor will be temporarily off limits to tours. A pre-construction meeting will be held prior to commencement of work. Mr. Harrower will be invited to attend. Mr. Banks mentioned that he noticed rotting around one of the window sills.

B. Internet Service – Mr. Havir noted that the cost for the internet service up to this point had been charged to the cataloguing grant. Going forward the cost will be part of the operating expenses. Does the Commission still wish to have the internet service? The Commission unanimously agreed to keep the internet service, which the cost will be deducted from the Commission's annual operating allocation.

C. Historic Resource Overlay District Ordinance –Mr. Havir reported that in follow up to the June 2, Public Affairs meeting, this matter was discussed at the Public Affairs Committee meeting, the Solicitor is reviewing various sections of the draft ordinance dealing with demolition by neglect, economic hardship for scattered sites and penalty provisions. The draft ordinance will be reviewed at a future Public Affairs meeting.

6. *Old Business*

A. Market Day – scheduled this year for September 8, 2012 with a rain date of September 9, 2012 needs volunteers to assist with marketing efforts, donations for the Bake Sale and White Elephant Table and help with installing the lawn signs at various intersections in the Township. Mr. Banks will make a list of locations where signs were posted. It was suggested that additional

lawn signs are needed to advertise the event. Mr. Havar stated that signs could be ordered from Rodon Signs. Upon a question about installing signage at the pools, Mr. Havar suggested that the Parks and Recreation staff should be consulted. Discussion ensued regarding raising the price for vendor applications and ordering portable restrooms for the event. Mr. Banks made a motion to approve the purchase of ten addition lawn signs, as well as increasing the vendor fee from \$25.00 to \$30.00 for single space and from \$45.00 to \$50.00 for a double space. This motion also included spending up to \$125.00 for a portable restroom; seconded by Mrs. Washington and unanimously approved.

B. Kerlin Farm Development Application – Mr. Harrower stated that the application was denied.

7. *New Business* – Mr. Havar announced that Mr. John Hoover will be the Township Staff liaison to the Historical Commission beginning in September as Mr. Havar assumes the role of acting Township Manager.

8. *Other Business* – Ms. Werkman noted that a recent draft of information on Historic Houses in La Mott and Wyncote was distributed at a recent BHAR meeting. Ms. Werkman noted that the information on Camp William Penn was incorrect. Mr. Havar stated that he would contact the historic preservation consultant preparing the document. Please send any additional comments to Mr. Havar.

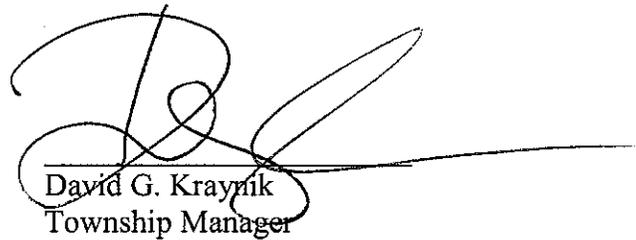
Mr. Havar stated that while attending a function for Tookany Tacony Frankford Watershed Partnership in Philadelphia, he was approached by the son of Ms. Beverly Weather Krenshaw about display cases he has in storage that would be appropriate for the Richard Wall House. Ms. Werkman asked that CROHL be considered as well.

9. *Moments in History* – Mrs. Washington shared the following articles; 1) The Philadelphia Inquirer- Captain Rostron Guest at Widener Home and New Suburb is Opened; 2) The

June 21, 2012 7:00 p.m.
Curtis Hall

Philadelphia Inquirer, June 20, 1912, Miss Widener Bride 3) Times Chronicle, June 11, 1910
Postmaster Salary increase from \$1,300 to \$1,400. 4) Times Chronicle, June 6, 1896 The
Sprinkling on Greenwood Avenue in Wyncote and 5) Times Chronicle, June 2, 1917, Ogontz
will Raise Potatoes.

10. 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 9:55
P.M.



David G. Kraynik
Township Manager

Submitted by: Kathryn McDevitt



MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

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

Thursday, June 21, 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. McANN TH			
Stephen Bunker			
Mary Washington			
J. Werkman			
Barbara Bartlett			
Louise Cohen			
Lois H. Hirsch			
Tom Wiedlaski			
Dave Harrower			