

The regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission was held tonight. Members present were: Barbara Bartlett, Cynthia Breen, Louise Cohen, Herschel Elias, David Harrower, Lois Hirsch, James McCann, Ray Burg, Jack Washington, Mary Washington and Joyce Werkman, Tom Wieckowski. Staff present was: John Hoover, Director of Parks and Recreation. (See attached attendance list).

**1. Call to Order** – Chairman Harrower called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

**2. Reorganization and Election of Officers** - Mr. Harrower asked for the Nominating Committee (Jim McCann, Barbara Bartlett) to report on a slate of candidates for the Election of Officers for 2013. Mr. McCann reported, on behalf of the Nominating Committee that although they worked hard to come up with a slate of candidates, no one was willing to serve as Chairman. Mr. Harrower opened the floor for other nominations for Chairman; Mr. Wieckowski nominated Cynthia Breen who declined. Ms. Werkman nominated Mr. McCann who declined. Nominations were closed for Chairman.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee Mr. McCann nominated Mr. Washington who expressed interest in serving as Vice Chairman. Mr. Harrower opened the floor for additional nominations for Vice Chairman. No other nominations were received. Upon motion of Ms. Cohen; seconded by Mr. Harrower, the nominations were closed. Jack Washington was unanimously elected as Vice Chairman. Mr. Harrower congratulated him.

Mr. McCann said Mr. Wieckowski offered to serve as Financial Secretary and nominated him. Mr. Harrower opened the floor for nominations for Financial Secretary. Upon motion of David Harrower; seconded by Ms. Hirsch, there being no other nominations, the nominations were closed. Mr. Wieckowski was unanimously elected as Financial Secretary.

It was decided to hold over the Nominating Committee until next month. Mr. Harrower thanked the nominating committee for their time. Mr. Harrower continued chairing the meeting.

3. *Acceptance of Minutes* – Mr. Harrower asked for a motion to accept the January 10, 2013 meeting minutes. Ms. Werkman asked for a correction under New Business on page four, first sentence to replace centennial with sesquicentennial and replace celebrated with commemorated. Mr. Harrower made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected; seconded by Mr. McCann and unanimously approved.

#### 4. *Committee Reports*

A. Education Committee – Ms. Cohen had no report. Mr. Harrower asked for volunteers to sign up on the docent schedule.

B. Preservation Committee Report – Mr. Harrower reported that the change in language (“eligible and/or listed”) to Historic Resource Overlay District Ordinance was presented to the Planning Commission. Hopefully this language will be eventually approved by the Board of Commissioners.

- Mr. Harrower noted that the historic Kerlin Farm building was demolished Monday evening. Mr. Harrower thought it was still in the appeal process. There was a discussion of forming a citizens group similar to Concerned Citizens for Ashbourne (CC4A) and having representation for specific concerns. Mr. Harrower will contact Preservation Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission (PHMC) for advice. Mr. McCann passed around photographs.
- Mr. Harrower informed the Historical Commission members that the owners of 1509 Ashbourne Road had previously asked for zoning relief and had mothballed the historic mansion on the site for future use. The owners have now come back to the Township and asked to tear down the mansion. Mr. Harrower indicated that the Planning Commission is not receptive. Mr. Harrower would like to get the word out and hopefully the Board of Commissioners would not recommend approval of this request. Mrs. Washington made a motion to notify the Township that the historic mansion be preserved and rehabilitated; seconded by Mr. McCann and unanimously approved.
- Mr. McCann inquired about the status of 409 Ashbourne Road which formerly housed the Scout Troop #33. Mr. Hoover, Staff Liaison, noted that the building has been recently scheduled for demolition due to extensive water damage. Discussion continued about whether this property is on the Cultural Resources Survey. Mary Washington volunteered to do research. Mr. McCann will take exterior photos. Mr. Harrower made a motion to ask the Board of Commissioners consider making repairs and seeking a new occupant; seconded by Ms. Breen and unanimously approved.

- Mr. Harrower also noted that the Wyncote Elementary School Building is scheduled to be demolished and replaced. Discussion ensued about the original Wyncote Elementary School Building located on Greenwood Avenue and the current Wyncote Elementary School located at 333 Rices Mill Road built in the circa 1949-1953. It was suggested that if the discussion was about the 333 Rices Mill Road location that it might be hard to step in at this point when the Historical Commission did not object to the other schools being demolished. Members asked if there were any architectural details worth documenting and/or saving.
- Mr. Harrower noted that Mr. Banks had several historic documents relating to Kerlin Farm such as receipts from Bosler Mill, T. Rowland Mill and Camptown which will be donated to the Richard Wall House Museum.
- Mr. McCann shared an article “Preserving the Past” from the Times Herald in Norristown on preservation and storage of photographs and documents. (See attached)
- Mr. McCann presented original copy of Cheltenham Tookany Troop #2 Boy Scout’s Charter (9-24-13) to the Richard Wall House Museum.

C. Museum Committee Report -- Ms. Breen reported on Mrs. Spruill’s behalf that a new exhibit at the Wall House is being planned and will be called “Children through the Years.” Also, the Myers Elementary School students will visit the Museum in May.

5. *Chairman’s Report* – No report

6. *Staff Report* – Mr. Hoover wished to make the members aware of the *Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund* Award Nominations. He referred to historic preservation projects completed in the Township such as Curtis Hall, Glenside Hall, Shovel Shop and Cheltenham Art Center as being eligible. He noted that while these were very important projects for the Township, they may not be highly ranked on a state-wide level.

7. *New Business* – Mr. Hoover asked if the Commission members would like to renew the subscription to the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) in the amount of \$35.00. Mr. Jack Washington made a motion to renew the NAPC subscription; seconded by Mr. Burg and unanimously approved.

**8. Announcements:** Mr. Washington reminded Commission members about the procedures for closing the Wall House because often he is called to reset the alarm. Members noted difficulty seeing the keypad. Mr. Harrower recommended that the alarm keypad should be illuminated with back lighting.

**9. *Moment in Time*** – Mrs. Mary Washington presented the following information found in the *Times Chronicle*, on February 17, 1912...Toby Leech's name was early given to a small stream which enters Tacony Creek near his home. (See Attached.)

**10. *Adjournment*** - There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Harrower and seconded by Mr. Burg and approved by the Historical Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

At 7:30 P.M. the monthly business meeting was followed by a special lecture for Black History Month entitled, "Octavius V. Catto, American Hero and Civil Rights Crusader," co-sponsored by the Historical Commission and the Jenkinstown Lyceum. The guest speaker was Anthony Waskie, Ph.D. The lecture was attended by approximately 45-50 persons.



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Bryan T. Havar  
Township Manager

Submitted by: Kathryn McDevitt



### MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

Historical Commission Regular Meeting @ 6:30 P.M.

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Curtis Hall

1250 W. Church Road, Wyncote, PA 19027

(Please Print Clearly)

Print Name	Mailing Address (only if different)	Telephone Number (only if different)	E-mail Address (only if different)
RAY BURG			
Diane Hillman		267-253-6947	
Jim DePaul		215-958-2323	
Lois Kirsch			
Barbara Kattt			
Anders			
Jack			
Mary Washington			
SHARIFAH ALI		267-401-5574	SHALI@PA.GOV
Tom Wierowski			
Louise Chen			
Dave			

# Preserving the Past



## PHOTO

From A1

The seminar also included tips on how to repair old photos, although Klase cautioned not to attempt any repairs that cannot be undone and said it is often better to have the job performed by a conservator.

Klase discussed the different types of photos, from cased and paper, which date back to the early 19th century, all the way to

modern color and digital photographs. He also provided tips on how to accurately date old photos.

Finally, he recommended that old photos be scanned onto a computer, so the scans can be displayed while the original is safely stored. Scanning also creates a permanent record of the photo, he said.

More information on seminars given at Pennypacker Mills can be found at [historicsites.montcopa.org](http://historicsites.montcopa.org).

Follow Tony Foriglio on Twitter @TheTonyForigh.

Carl Klase, assistant administrator at Pennypacker Mills, displays a daguerreotype Sunday at a seminar on the preservation and storage of photographs and documents.

Photo by Tony Foriglio/Times Herald Staff

## Seminar teaches art of photo preservation

By TONY FIORIGLIO  
[afioriglio@timesherald.com](mailto:afioriglio@timesherald.com)



**SCHWENKSVILLE** — Pennypacker Mills hosted a seminar on the preservation and storage of old photographs and documents in the Classroom Building Sunday afternoon.

Carl Klase, an assistant administrator at Pennypacker, explained that one of the big-

gest concerns with old photos and documents is how the item is handled.

"Things can be brittle and you don't want to break them," Klase said.

Wearing cotton gloves is often appropriate when han-

dling old photographs and documents, he said, although gloves are not desirable if the item cannot be handled safely.

"It is difficult lots of time to work with gloves," Klase said.

Items should be stored in a cool, dark place with as little humidity as possible, and exposure to direct light

should be avoided, he said. In most homes, the ideal location is the bedroom closet, which generally is not as damp as a basement or attic and is away from doors to the outside that are opened and closed frequently, he said.

Please see PHOTO on A6

T.C 17 Feb 1912

Toby Leech's name was early given to a small stream which enters Tocony Creek near his home. This small brook, called Leech's run, starts at a strong spring on the farm formerly owned by Doctor Pepper, but recently purchased by P.A.B. Widener. Thence it runs in a nearly easterly direction through several properties until it crosses York road and enters Dobbins pond. In this distance, probably half a mile, its size is considerably increased by waters from several good springs. From Dobbins' pond it flows nearly northeast for another half mile through Elkins Park and under the rail road it enters Tocony or Tocony Creek near Toby Leech's bakery, and like all small streams when they empty into a larger one, Leech's Run loses its identity.