

The regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission was held tonight. Members present were: Cynthia Breen, Louise Cohen, David Harrower, Lois Hirsch, James McCann, Dorothy Spruill, Mary Washington and Joyce Werkman, Tom Wieckowski. Staff present was: John Hoover, Director of Parks and Recreation and Brian Hinson, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation. Guests present were: Julie Haywood and Betty Gaffney (See attached attendance list).

1. Call to Order – In Vice-Chair Jack Washington’s absence, Mr. Wieckowski, Financial Secretary called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M.

2. Reorganization and Election of Officers - Mr. Wieckowski asked for the Nominating Committee (Jim McCann) to report on a slate of candidates for the Election of Officers for 2013. Mr. McCann reported, on behalf of the Nominating Committee that there was still no one willing to serve as Chairman. Mr. Wieckowski opened the floor for other nominations for Chairman. No nominations were made and nominations were closed for Chairman. It was decided to carry over the work of the Nominating Committee until next month.

3. Acceptance of Minutes – Mr. Wieckowski asked for a motion to accept the February 14, 2013 meeting minutes. Mr. Harrower asked for a correction under Committee Reports/Preservation, in the third sentence of the first bullet to add...in future development projects. Mr. McCann made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected; seconded by Mrs. Washington and unanimously approved.

4. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee – Ms. Cohen reported that the special lecture for Black History Month entitled, “Octavius V. Catto, American Hero and Civil Rights Crusader,” presented by Anthony Waskie, PhD. was well attended with approximately 45-50 persons. This lecture was co-sponsored by the Historical Commission and the Jenkinstown Lyceum. The National Preservation Month lecture to be held on May 9, 2013 at Curtis Hall will be presented by William Pickens on “The Morreys and Montiers: A Colonial Love Story.” (See attached.)

Ms. Cohen asked for volunteers to sign up on the docent schedule. (See attached.)

B. Preservation Committee Report

- Mr. Harrower informed the Historical Commission members that the owners of 1509 Ashbourne Road who had previously asked for zoning relief and had mothballed the historic mansion on the site for future use, had come back to the Township and asked to tear down the mansion. Mr. Harrower stated that the mansion was recorded in the Cultural Resources Survey and noted as eligible on the historic register. It had been owned by the Stephano Brothers, Tobacconists, and formerly by Jay Cooke, Jr. at one time. Mr. Harrower indicated that the Planning Commission was not receptive about tearing down the mansion. Mr. Harrower noted that the owners indicated that if they cannot tear it down they will have to subdivide off and sell it.
- Mr. Harrower stated that the developer for Laverock Hill located on Willow Grove Avenue with approximately 10 acres of the property located in Cheltenham Township and 40 acres located in Springfield Township is talking to both Cheltenham and Springfield Townships regarding their age restricted ordinances. They have submitted a proposal for revisions to the Cheltenham and Springfield Zoning Codes. They would like to incorporate a use for the existing mansion to be made into an event facility. Neighbors have questions about the implications and unintended consequences elsewhere.
- 1114 Stratford Avenue, Elkins Park, PA Carriage House. Ms. Betty Gaffney was present to discuss the demolition permit application for the property owned by her family. Ms. Gaffney stated that the Carriage House had not been used since 1961 and was in total disrepair and is a safety issue. The first floor of the Carriage House had been used to house horses, with a small kitchen on the first floor and living quarters on the second floor with a full bath. Photographs of the Carriage House were reviewed and will be filed as photographic documentation for the historic footprint. Mr. Harrower explained that the Historical Commission's position is to try to restore buildings. We encourage rebuilding in kind and the approach is to contribute to the character of the neighborhood. As this building is in such disrepair, it is with sadness losing this historic structure that Mrs. Washington made a motion to approve the demolition; 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 was scheduled for demolition due to extensive water damage. Discussion continued about whether this property is on the Cultural Resources Survey and whether it could be reused. Mr. Hoover stated the money involved to rehabilitate would be too great to undertake at this point.

C. Museum Committee Report –Mrs. Spruill reported that both she and Ms. Breen worked all day on the new exhibit at the Wall House called “Children through the Years.” Mrs. Spruill stated she was missing some keys. Through discussion, several keys were accounted for and it was noted that keys

should be made for the library display cases. Mrs. Spruill asked if a box of books found on the second floor were donations. No one could identify the books. Mr. Wieckowski stated that he has the banner from Market Day in his possession.

5. Chairman's Report – Mr. Wieckowski read Vice Chair Washington's report: (See attached.)

- The Quaker City Questers toured the Museum on March 5, 2013.
- A new sign was made for the front door directing visitors to rear of house for tours and Entrance sign for the end of porch for the same purpose.
- There were two alarm malfunctions. Mr. Washington set lines of communication with Mr. Hoover.
- Lights left on overnight on 2/27-28/13.
- Carriage House Meeting space should be returned to the condition in which it was found after each use. Mr. Hoover will coordinate amongst staff to make sure other people using the space are reasonable and respect the space and keep it in order.
- Mr. Washington asked about donation from Questers and how is it recorded.
- Post Sign was taken down after wind damaged it. It will most likely need new sign as well as new post. Mr. Wieckowski suggested contacting Rodon Signs for price to replace.
- Mr. Wieckowski has volunteered to re-start "The Wall Paper."

6. Staff Report – Mr. Hoover introduced Brian Hinson, as Acting Director of Parks and Recreation, who will assume Mr. Hoover's duties upon his retirement at the end of the month and also his duties as Staff Liaison to the Historical Commission.

7. New Business – Mr. McCann reported that the Northeast Philadelphia Historical Society provided him with a CD of over 702 images of Holmesburg, Bridesburg and Bustleton and one of Cheltenham Township's dam located across the Tookany Creek from the Boy Scouts Cabin House from the postcard collection they obtained through fundraising. Mr. Wieckowski agreed to download the photograph of the dam. Mr. McCann reached over to an unframed rendering on the window sill of the old mill race and Mrs. Spruill asked for its dimension so that it can be placed in a frame.

Mrs. Julie Haywood wished to share her idea for walking routes in each of the neighborhoods. Mr. Harrower offered to assist as routes are mapped out by the sustainability committee. Mrs. Haywood suggested overlaying historic sites on the walking routes. Mr. Wieckowski thought this was an interesting idea and both he and Mrs. Washington offered to collaborate on this part of the project. Mr.

Wieckowski noted that the Wyncote Civic Association is working on a historic tour of Wyncote. Mr. McCann also offered that some interpretive signage with a photograph and text would add to the interest, and perhaps a grant could be obtained. It was agreed that a number of people could contribute resources to this endeavor. Members of the Historical Commission should have old brochures or programs with useful information.

8. Announcements: Mr. Harrower announced that on Saturday March 23rd, 8:30 - 12:00 Noon at the County Council Meeting Room Government Center Building, 201 W. Front Street, Media, PA *Organizing Your Collection: What Collection?* Speaker Ray Peden, President, Friends of the Caleb Pusey House, Inc., *Cataloging Your Collection* Brian L. Gomez and *Insuring Your Collection*, if anyone is interested in attending. Registration is free.

Mr. Harrower wanted to know if the Historical Commission will be hosting Market Day this year which would be held on September 7, 2013. If so, now would be the time to reach out to juried crafters, as he learned from last year's event. Discussion ensued about holding Market Day this year. Mrs. Spruill was not in favor of holding Market Day this year. It was recommended that this topic be added to next month's Agenda for further discussion.

Mr. McCann noted that Ms. Kotzin contacted him about volunteering to work on Cheltenham Village's 325th Anniversary program.

Mr. McCann asked if the Historical Commission could have a facebook account for posting photographs and advertising events. Mr. Hoover noted that in discussion with Ms. Gibson she said that the Township Solicitor has a negative opinion on this matter. This would require an on-going time commitment from a volunteer member. You would have to have a commitment. Mr. Wieckowski stated he would be interested in having volunteers update the Historical Commission's page on the Township website.

9. *Moments in Time* – Mrs. Mary Washington presented the following articles (See Attached.)

1) *Times Chronicle*, 4 March 1911, Ashbourne; 2) *Times Chronicle*, 3 March 1917, The Gates Are Not Taking Toll; 3) *Times Chronicle*, 31 March 1923, Mail Delivery in Cheltenham Starts July 1. (See attached.)

10. *Adjournment* - There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. McCann and seconded by Mrs. Washington and approved by the Historical Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.



Bryan T. Havar
Township Manager

Submitted by: Kathryn McDevitt



MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

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

Thursday, March 14, 2013

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)
Dave Harrowed			
Mary Washington			
Nois Hirsch			
Betty Gagny			
James J. McEann III			
Cynthia Breen			
Wendy L. Spill			
Werkman			
Mike Raynor	443 Ruck Mill Rd Wyn Ave PA 19095		jeremy.wood@os.com
Louise Cohen			

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

A program for Black History Month was held on Feb. 14 at Curtis Hall, following the meeting of the Historical Commission. Dr. Anthony Waskie spoke on Octavius V. Catto, a civil rights hero with a power point presentation. Approximately 50 people were in attendance.

We want to thank the Jenkinstown Lyceum for helping to underwrite this lecture. We also thank Tom Wieckowski for lending us the equipment for the presentation, David Harrower for composing the flyer and Kathy McDevitt for printing.

The next lecture will be in honor of National Preservation Month on May 9, at Curtis Hall, following the regular meeting of the Historical Commission. The speaker is William Pickens who has called his talk: The Morreys and the Montiers - A Colonial Love Story. He is a descendent of the family.

Please help publicize this program. We can use more names on our snail mail list and our email list.

14 March 2013

Report to the Commission:
From: Jack Washington

Rec'd call from Mr. Hoover regarding a Quaker tour for March 5th at 10³⁰ AM - Teared the Quaker City Quakers 10³⁰ AM - 12¹⁵ PM - Directed them to lunch at Marco Polo.

Thanks to Tom Wieckowski for signs made
① Early closing of Wall House for LA Mott event 3/24/13. Also, sign on front door directing visitors to other side (Rear) of house for tours. Jack Washington provided a new "Entrance" sign for the end of the porch for the same purpose

Two alarm mal functions Sought Mr. Hoover's permission to contact Mr. Dunleavy directly. Set lines of communication with Mr. Hoover

Lights left on overnite on 2-27-2-28. Cleaners or Meeting. Visitor center needs to be re-arranged for Sunday visitors and tours each time it is used for Twp meetings Sunday people take note.

Dr. Wieckowski has volunteered to re-start our news letter. The WAZZ Paper.

In his new roll Mr. Witekowski should be on the lookout for the Quester donation from the tour on March 5, 2013. How this money is credited to Wall House expenses needs to be clarified.

Museum sign fronting on Wall Park Drive was broken off (by strong winds?) at the base, which was rotten. Mr. Hoover apprised 3/7/11.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Washington

Times Chronicle Sat. morn. 4 March 1911
Ashbourne

The Blast furnaces at the old Myers & Ervien mill are in operation again after having been shut down for sometime.

(Myers & Ervien was at the corner of Church & Mill Roads.

Times Chronicle Sat morn. 3 March 1917

The Gates Are Not Taking Toll

On Germantown and Willow Grove Plank Road
Now Possible to Drive the Five-mile Stretch
Without Paying Toll at Four Places - County Pays
\$ 27,599.

(Now Easton Road

Times Chronicle Sat morn 31 March 1923

Mail Delivery in Cheltenham Starts July 1

Ambition of Postmaster Frank C. Fisher is
Realized

Post Office Will Remain the Same with

Two Carriers - Far Surpasses Surrounding
Mail Deliveries