

The regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission was held tonight. Members present were: Louise Cohen, Herschel Elias, David Harrower, Lois Hirsch, James McCann, Dorothy Spruill, Jack Washington, Mary Washington and Joyce Werkman, Tom Wieckowski. Staff present was: John Hoover, Director of Parks and Recreation and Brian Hinson, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation. Guests present were: Cynthia Blackwood and Lisa Steckebrand (See attached attendance list).

1. Call to Order – Vice-Chair Jack Washington called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M.

2. Reorganization and Election of Officers - Mr. Washington 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 Mr. Washington agreed to serve as Chairman, if Mr. McCann would serve as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Washington opened the floor for nominations for Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Mr. McCann nominated Mr. Washington as Chairman and Mrs. Washington nominated McCann as Vice Chairman. Having no other nominations, nominations were closed for Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Mr. Washington asked for approval of the slate of officers as presented by the nominating committee for Chairman and Vice Chairman. The members voted unanimously for Mr. Jack Washington as Chairman and Mr. McCann as Vice-Chairman.

3. Review of Financial Report for March 2013 – Mr. Wieckowski will review the report that has been received from the Township and report on it at next month's meeting.

4. Presentation – Ms. Cynthia Blackwood was invited by Mr. Harrower to speak about the efforts of a small committee given the opportunity to renovate the historic Elkins Park Train Station, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Specifically, the repairs to the HVAC system and water abatement in conjunction with the cooperation of SEPTA, the Township and the Cheltenham Township Community Development Corporation (CTCDC) a 501c3 non profit. Fund raising is necessary. Initial cleanout has begun by volunteers. It is hoped that eventually the space can be used

for community gathering, art displays, rotating exhibits, etc. They plan to be open May 5, 2013 for the Turtle Artisans Tour and host an art show in September. Ms. Blackwood described the existing space and some of the features that will be preserved. Ms. Blackwood will be present on one weekend day and one weekday to explain their efforts and sell baked goods to begin to raise funds. Pamphlets were distributed. You can visit their website: www.elkinscentral.com.

5. *Acceptance of Minutes* – Mr. Washington asked for a motion to accept the March 14, 2013 meeting minutes. Mr. Wieckowski made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected; seconded by Ms. Werkman and unanimously approved.

6. *Committee Reports*

A. Education Committee – Ms. Cohen reported that the special lecture for National Preservation Month will be presented William Pickens on May 9, 2013 at Curtis Hall entitled, “The Morreys and Montiers: A Colonial Love Story.” (See attached.) This lecture was co-sponsored by the Historical Commission and the Jenkinstown Lyceum. Flyers have been sent out to the mailing list and some flyers are available this evening for members to distribute in the area. Ms. Cohen noted that as part of the Jenkinstown Lyceum grant, \$100.00 for honorarium, \$75.00 for advertising and mailing and \$25.00 for refreshments will be expended. Ms. Cohen noted that the speaker will be traveling from Sag Harbor, New York and Ms. Cohen had advised him about nearby lodging. Ms. Cohen explained that the speaker will be providing real documents and requested easels for display. Mrs. Spruill, Mr. McCann and Mr. Washington each offered to supply the easels. In addition, Ms. Cohen inquired about having roadway sign(s) available for advertising the lecture. Mr. Washington asked to have the two digital signs be used at Curtis Hall and the Parks & Recreation sign be used at Richard Wall House. Mr. Hinson agreed to ensure that the signs were available. Discussion regarding continuing lectures resulted in a motion by Mary Washington to continue lecture presentations with assistance of the Jenkinstown Lyceum grant funding; seconded by Mr. Harrower made.

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

B. Preservation Committee Report - Mr. Harrower noted that the majority of the Board of Commissioners were in favor of appeal of Zoning Hearing Board regarding 1050 Ashbourne Road. Mr. Harrower expressed concern about the use of the term "structure" as in, the building was no longer considered a structure because all that is left is remnants of building and would then no longer qualify as a structure and no longer be considered historic. Mr. Harrower had suggested changing the Zoning Code. Mr. Harrower also noted that Preservation Pennsylvania did support his position regarding the PHMC guidelines for the National Register, for a property/building to be deemed historic; it would need to be 1) listed and 2) listed or eligible.

Mr. Harrower also discussed the Old Farm House at the former Ashbourne Country Club property. He stated that the Concerned Citizens for Ashbourne (CC4A) group did get an attorney and appealed the decision. Mrs. Washington asked if proposed ordinance would help with that structure. Mr. Harrower stated that the demolition permit had been issued.

C. Museum Committee Report - Mrs. Spruill reported that both she had some documentation for the archives on Alice Paul, a 20th century suffragist from Mt. Laurel, New Jersey. She would like to put it up for an exhibit.

Mrs. Spruill stated that Meyers Elementary School will visit the Museum on May 30, 2013. Rain date will be May 31, 2013. Ms. Werkman and the senior student docents will assist. Volunteers are welcome.

Mr. Harrower inquired about certificates for the student docents and agreed to create a certificate for the students and would like to make a presentation at the June Historical Commission meeting. Mr. Washington questioned the ability of the Historical Commission contact the student docents.

7. Chairman's Report – Mr. Washington reported that following the EAC meeting at the Carriage House, posters were left on window sill. Mr. Washington stated that the Museum was closed for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Mr. Wieckowski and Ms. Cohen made up proper signs with the correct information. There was a problem with the alarm system once after the cleaning service departed and once on Sunday at 4:05 p.m. He noted on Sunday that the students did not put signs away. He reported that the Township's Property Supervisor fixed the lock at top of the Carriage House door; keys for library display case have been made; repaired portable sign with replacement letters and smaller sign needs a suitable base.

8. Staff Report – Mr. Brian Hinson reported that he has the keys for the library case and that he is waiting on quotations for new signage. He also noted that a donation to the Historical Commission was made in memory of Stephen Banks. Mr. Washington stated he will send letter of acknowledgement. Mr. Hinson stated that Mr. Havir asked him to share with the Commission information from the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Office regarding an organizational sign-on letter showing support for the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit. Mr. Harrower will follow up on responding to the Petition.

9. Old Business - 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. Mr. Harrower noted that it takes commitment and a lot of work. Mr. Wieckowski who assisted Mr. Harrower this year, felt this is an event that perhaps has run its course. Mr. Harrower added that a celebration for Historical La Mott and the United States Colored Troops 150th Anniversary and the founding of Camp William Penn will be held on September 21, 2013 and he would not want to interfere with that event. Mrs. Spruill made a motion to not hold Market Day this year only; seconded by Mrs. Washington and unanimously accepted.

10. New Business –Mr. Wieckowski downloaded an image of the Cheltenham Township’s dam located across the Tookany Creek from the Boy Scouts Cabin House from the postcard collection obtained from the Northeast Philadelphia Historical Society by Mr. McCann. He also photographed the dam as it looks today. He included an 1897 map of the area and had the three images matted and framed together and wished to donate it to the Museum. Mrs. Spruill was pleased to accept it on behalf of the Historical Commission.

Mr. Harrower announced that Regina Banks has donated a poster from the 1970’s (Honor King; End Racism) carried by Mrs. Banks in a march by striking sanitation workers in Memphis after the assassination of Martin Luther King.

11. Moment in History – Mrs. Mary Washington presented the following article: *The Inquirer*, April 16 1913, Ogontz. (See Attached.)

12. Adjournment - There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Washington and seconded by Mrs. Washington and approved by the Historical Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.



Bryan T. Havar
Township Manager

Submitted by: Kathryn McDevitt



MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

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

Thursday, April 11, 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)
Mary Washington			
Jackie Washington			
Lisa Steckeband			
Louise Cohen			
J. Westman			
A. Spratt			
Cynthia Blackwood			
Dave Harrower			
Lois Kirsch			
Tom Wochel			
HERSCHEL ELIAS			

James J. McEann III

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Flyers are ready for distribution to advertise our next lecture. Please help in distributing as many as possible. Our speaker, Mr. William Pickens, is coming from Sag Harbor, N.Y. I have advised him about overnight accommodations at the Elkins Park House. If you have other suggestions, please let me know.

The expenses for the lecture will be Honorarium, \$100, postage \$75, refreshments, \$25.

The speaker is bringing documents to illustrate his history and has requested 5 easels on which to show some as well as a table. If you can lend an easel, it would be appreciated. I would also like to request that the mobile sign be used to advertise the lecture.

Many thanks to Dave Harrower for composing the flyer and Kathy McDevitt for printing the flyers.

Louise Cohen, April 11, 2013

Moments in History – Inquirer – April 16, 1913.

Auto Fire Steamer for a Suburban Company

Special to the Inquirer.

Ogontz, PA – April 5. - The Old York Road section is to have the most modern type of fire-fighting apparatus procurable, the Board of Directors of the Old York Road Fire Company of “Elkins Park and Ashbourne, having decided to purchase an automobile steamer at a cost of easily \$10,000. Approximately \$8000 have been subscribed by suburbanites living in the section including Ogontz, Elkins Park, Melrose Park, Ashbourne and Oak Lane Terrace; and it practically assured that the remaining \$2000 needed will be in the hands of the committee prior to the time of delivery of the apparatus.

The Old York Road Company has in its membership a number of Philadelphia millionaires; and is the only suburban company north of Philadelphia which has a separate organization of members under the designation of “Actives.” The moneyed men support the company; and the “Actives” are young unmarried men, who are highly trained and skilled, and whose sole duty it is to answer all alarms and man the apparatus at all alarm calls.