

The regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission was held tonight. Members present were: Barbara Bartlett, Ray Burg, Herschel Elias, David Harrower, Lois Hirsch, James McCann, Dorothy Spruill, Jack Washington, Joyce Werkman, Tom Wieckowski. Staff present was Brian Hinson, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation. (See attached attendance list).

1. Call to Order – Chairman Jack Washington called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

2. Acceptance of Minutes – Mr. Washington asked for a motion to accept the May 9, 2013 meeting minutes. Ms. Werkman noted that under Old Business: Ms. Bartlett stated that Carolyn Ancker of Jenkintown, who was an honorary member recently passed away. Ms. Werkman asked that a statement be noted that she made during previous meeting under New Business be added: People who have already volunteered for a duty should finish the task before volunteering for additional duties. Mr. Washington made a motion to accept the minutes as amended; seconded by Mr. Harrower and unanimously approved.

3. Acceptance of Financial Report

Mr. Wieckowski stated for its financial report regarding the deposit of funds gifted last month to Commission, Mr. Washington found the receipt and the money is accounted for and in the Historical Commission account.

4. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee There was no report.

B. Preservation Committee Report Mr. Harrower stated that there was no meeting of the Planning Commission during the month of May. There will be a public meeting in the near future by the Neighborhood Association to Save Laverock Hill. Mr. Harrower will announce the date for that meeting when it is confirmed.

C. Museum Committee Report Mrs. Spruill stated that Ms. Rosa Lee Gazosky, PhD who resides at Rices Mill and Church Road has written a letter to Township Manager Havarir to become a new

committee member and was supposed to be at the meeting tonight. {Upon checking with Township Manager Havir, no letter was received}. Mr. Washington announced to become a member of the Historic Committee, individuals need to apply through the Township and must write a letter to the Township Manager requesting appointment by the Board President. Mr. Washington requested that a list be made of all donations for the museum so that Ms. Spruill knows what she has stored. Ms. Spruill stated she needs to keep account of everything that is stored at the Wall House and Carriage House. Letters of acknowledgement were written by Mr. Harrower, for Boy Scout memorabilia, items donated from the former Kerlin Farms homestead such as fire place, mantels, some brackets from the porch, window part and one inch piece of glass. Items were placed in Stephen Banks home, Mr. Harrower stated Ms. Gartner has some items she had collected which were boxes of books and papers. He said he would go through items and make a list. Mr. Washington asked that an inventory be taken of items that have been received. These items were saved before Kerlin Farms was demolished.

5. Chairman's Report – A copy of the attached report was distributed at the meeting. There is no answering machine for the Wall House at this time and a telephone is needed. Mr. Washington stated that Verizon said the problem has been the telephone at the Wall House and one of the two telephone lines which has been fixed. Ms. Werkman volunteered to donate a phone to the Wall House. Mr. Harrower made a motion to purchase a new answer machine for the Wall House. Mr. Wieckowski will be donating a phone/answering machine instead. Mr. Washington said a calendar of events needs to be established, so that meetings and special tours are not scheduled on the same dates. This has been a problem in the past. A calendar will be available to include upcoming events. Mr. Washington stated that there was an alarm call on Friday, May 10th that took place. He spoke with Mr. Dunleavy and correct keys are needed in the outside Knox box. Mr. Washington thanked Ray Berg and others who have cleaned up the garden around the Wall House. Mr. Harrower will be making presentations of certificate at a later date. Special thanks was given to Ms. Bartlett for her work on a tour work sheet

used at Wall House for tours and meetings. Madames Werkman and Spruill were acknowledged for helping with the Myers Elementary School Tour. Mr. Washington modified an old Wall House sign that just needs to be re-installed. This will save spending \$3,000 for a new sign.

6. **Staff Report** – Mr. Hinson announced there was a recent Steering Committee meeting for the Curtis Conservation Landscape Management Plan. He stated surveys went out to residents. The Committee is looking for a response from the residents on what Curtis Arboretum can be used for and how it could be developed for more active use. Mr. Hinson requested everyone complete a survey. to please fill it out and send it in. The next meeting will be a walking tour of the grounds if anyone is interested. The date will be announced later. Mr. Harrower requested the Historical Commission be included on the notification. Mr. Hinson mentioned that it is unsafe to take pictures or walk the grounds at the 409 Ashbourne Road. The property is slated for demolition this summer. Any Commission member wanting to visit the property should contact the Building and Zoning Department to make an appointment and be accompanied. Mr. Hinson notified the Commission about the demolition permit for 803 Chelton Hills Drive from storm damage.

7. **Old Business**- Mr. Washington stated that the Wall House no longer has internet service. Mr. Wieckowski asked about the missing chair from the museum. Ms. Werkman stated that she spoke to Ms. Regina Banks, prior to her passing, about the chair and it still is unaccounted for and missing.

8. **New Business** –Mr. David Harrower announced Mrs. Regina Banks, widow of Steve Banks has passed. Mrs. Banks was acknowledged for her donation of the Vietnam anti war poster carried in the Civil Rights era. Mr. Washington passed around a copy of obituary for Carolyn Ancker of Jenkintown who was 92 years old when she passed. The Pennsylvania Heritage magazine was loaned out to the Commission and should be returned to the Township Manager office when everyone is done viewing it.

June 13, 2013 7:30 p.m.
Carriage House

The renewal, for membership with "Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia" which is \$75.00, was voted and accepted. The renewal with "National Alliance of Preservation Commissions" which is \$85.00 was voted and accepted.

9. Announcements: Ms. Miller informed the group about the enactment at Gettysburg on July 4-7.

10. Moment in History – Mrs. Mary Washington sent the following information found from old news letters for Myers Elementary (See Attached). Mr. Wieckowski talked about the history of Vincent Pennypacker. Vincent's son Robert will be retiring soon from Penny's Flowers. Penny's Flowers supported "Market Day" last year.

11. Adjournment - There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Jack Washington and seconded by Mrs. Spruill and approved by the Historical Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by: Linda Vann

June 13, 2013

Dear Commission Members:

In an effort to give more concrete direction for our activities and align them with our mission of preserving and interpreting The Wall House by presenting exhibits, tours, educational programs and special events that broaden understanding and appreciation of our site and its environs, I want to develop a long range plan and establish a long range planning committee.

To start, I would like the planning committee to focus its efforts on some general topics about which the Commission has devoted a lot of attention during our monthly meetings and about which we all share a lot of concern. These would include, but not be limited to, visitor services, programming, gardens and commission development.

Therefore, I propose that the current chairperson for the committees that regularly deal with these topics serve as the members of the planning committee, in addition to the elected commission members. I recommend that the current chairpersons serve on the planning committee, as they have a long-standing familiarity with their respective committee's functions, needs and site operations. They will be charged with the responsibility of examining topics, developing goals, objectives and action steps, and reporting back to the entire commission. As we progress, we continually will solicit the whole commissions on the long range planning process.

The final product should be a two year plan that will enable us to strengthen our capacity to educate and serve the public at The Wall House. It will help the commission and the Township staff work together as a team for the benefit of all. The production of this plan also will help us to pursue operations and practices consistent with the standards needed for the future of The Richard Wall House Museum.

Your help and cooperation in this long range planning process is greatly appreciated. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Jack Washington
Historical Commission Chairman
215-635-3527

CC: Bryan Havir, Township Manager
Brian Hinson, Parks and Recreation

Myers Fourth Grade Trip

Follow up feed back from participants of the Myers 4th grade trip to Wall Park. As the Crossing Guard at Myers, I have the advantage of conversing with staff, parents & students. The most glaring & disturbing comment was the video/DVD was not shown prior to the trip. By not seeing the video, the students DO NOT hear the history of the house, the families that lived within, & their importance to the township. I doubt many people realize few streets in the township bear the names of the families that lived in the Wall House. I discovered that the video wasn't shown because it can not be found! Apparently this is not the first year. It's possible that has been the case since the move from the Mps back to renovated Myers. While was the Commission not notified so a replacement could be provided?

At the afternoon crossing I asked the students how was their trip. Most said it was fun playing in the park & on the equipment. Not one mention of the house. When I asked about the house their answer was it had a lot of junk in it.

I think the program needs to be investigated

& reworked so some of the 4th grade state curriculum can be met. My observation is a ~~day~~ day out of the classroom & the school for play not education. The teachers role in the visit might also be brought into question.

Submitted by
Mary Washington

Chairman's Report

13-2013

Two, duplicated flyers for History Fair @ St. Thomas and Wall House.

Checked Roland Storage after water leak Everything of ours OK. Sue Freis looks out for us.

Returned 2 Quaker groups inquiry for tour information.

As of this date there is still working answering machine at the Wall House. Need to establish a calendar so events, meetings & special tours ARE listed, i.e. when an agency books a tour, even months ahead, it needs to be written down to alert our people and avoid conflicts in scheduling. Sometimes, things do not make the minutes. If they do, referring to them is often time consuming.

Guidelines for Calendar

Entry placed on proper date

Name of Group or Person

Time of Tour

Name of Commission Member who made the commitment (initials ^{legible} will do in some cases)

Chairman's Report cont 6-13-2013

There was a alarm call on Friday May 10th. Checked with Mr Dunlevy that the proper keys are in the Knox box in case of an emergency

The in memory of Steve Banks and the donation from Rerald Greenberg was recorded in the April statement - combined to read \$450

Thanks to Ray Burg and others who have gardened and cleaned-up around the grounds

Quester tour for 6-3-13 was rescheduled for fall do the illness of several Quester members. Other Quester groups have express interest in meetings/tours as an outcome of the presentation I was a part of at the Wm Penn Inn on MAY 30th, this was a gathering of Quester Presidents (Past + Present). Of note Hope McGafferty was most interested in the present state of WPA Use as she was regional Quester president. When several Quester Chapters went together to pay for the restoration of our bake oven/fireplace.

Spoke to Mr. Hoff about the student docent program for next year. Emily Sachs provided a list of this year's students. The list has been turned over to Mr. Harrower for certificates. They cannot

6-13-13

be presented at this meeting due to tonight's graduation. Mr. Marrower will find an appropriate venue for making the presentations.

Thanks to Barbica Bartlet for a tour worksheet for students she thinks maybe adaptable to the Wall House. Right now there are NO guides or worksheets for young people when they visit.

Thank you to the Joyce Workman and Mrs. Spruill for duty during the Myers visit.

The sign has been worked on and is ready for reinstallation.

ANCKER

CAROLYN R., age 92, of Jenkintown, formerly of Elkins Park on September 6, 2012.

Sister of Loris Ancker Rosskam and L. George Rosskam (brother-in-law), 2 nieces, one nephew and several grandnieces and grandnephews.

Graduate of Cheltenham High School and Randolph-Macon Woman's College in 1941.

Carolyn was a member of the Reformed Congregation Keneseth Israel and Philmont Country Club.

Carolyn was also a proud volunteer to many clubs and organizations and served in many leadership positions - Philadelphia Federation of Women's Clubs, Randolph-Macon Woman's College Alumnae Assn., American Red Cross, United Way, Women's University Club, American Association of University Women, The Philadelphia Orchestra Assn., Mann Center for the Performing Arts Guild, Women for Greater Phila. and the Laurel Hill Mansion, Arcadia University Friends, Keneseth Israel Sisterhood and was a Republican Committeewoman for Jenkintown.

Donations in Carolyn's honor can be made to any of these organizations that she cared for so greatly.

Service will be private.

AN UNWELCOME VISITOR



Vincent A. Pannepacker, Glenside, checks up on the damage to his flower shop at York and Church roads, Elkins Park, after a truck loaded with twelve tons of bricks crashed into the bulk window.
(Photo by Utzy)

T.C. Thursday 10 June 1943

The town of Cheltenham now has a beautiful playground on the site where Thomas Rowland's Sons' Shovel and Spade Work's were located. The Shovel and Spade Work's was a landmark in Cheltenham and at one time not only gave employment to most of the village's workers, but also gave the place its early name.

Cheltenham Messenger
vol 1 No 1 Monday
3 June 1935

Cheltenham Leader In Road Construction

Cheltenham Township leads all first class townships in the State of Pennsylvania in the construction of highways according to a bulletin issued by the Pennsylvania Economic Council. According to the figures submitted by experts employed by the Economic Council, Cheltenham Township's per capita expenditure is \$5.26 while the nearest township to Cheltenham is Radnor in Delaware County with \$3.64.

The per capita expenditures vary from 98 cents for Elizabeth Township in Allegheny County to Cheltenham's rate of \$5.26. Abington shows an expenditure of \$3.59; Lower Merion, \$3.58; Haverford \$3.31; Springfield, Montgomery County and West Norristown \$3.12 each and Upper Darby \$2.85.

Cheltenham Messenger
vol 1 No 1 Monday
3 June 1935

WYNCOTE WHISPERS.

Fourteen fire plugs have been put in place in the streets of Wyncote this week. The last plug that was put in place, opposite the stable of L. M. Bean, on Greenwood avenue, gave out by reason of the breaking of the water main at the point of connection, and there was a general flooding of the highway until repairs could be made.

T.C. Saturday 29 July 1905

T.C. Saturday 15 July 1905

The Charles Hammond hammer factory at this place has the present week been restocked with a new set of grindstones, 100 in number. Each weighs 2968 pounds. They are 9 inches in width of face and are six feet in diameter. They were shipped to the factory from Cleveland, Ohio. Seven freight cars were required for their transportation.

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Sign IN

David Harrower

Lois H. Hirsch

Peter Viller (not a resident)

Dorothy Sprill

Joyce Trimmer

Barbara Bault

Jim McLann

Jack Washington

Tam Woehler -

HERSCHEL ELIAS