January 9, 2014 7:30 p.m.
Carriage House

The regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission was held tonight. Members present were: Barbara Bartlett, Ray Burg, Louise Cohen, David Harrower, Lois Hirsch, James McCann, Jack Washington, Mary Washington, Joyce Werkman, and Dr. 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 December 12, 2013 meeting minutes. Mr. Washington asked for a correction under New Business; regarding accepting the Jenkinstown Lyceum Grant if awarded. A motion was made by Tom Wieckowski and second by Mrs. Washington for the acceptance of the grant. A motion was made to accept the minutes as corrected and was unanimously approved.

3. ***Review of Financial Report*** - Mr. Washington announced that the Friends organization has received $100 in donations. There are copies of the checks. The Committee report was accepted.

4. ***Committee Reports***

A. Education Committee - Ms. Cohen stated that she has the flyers for the upcoming presentation of "A Spectacle for Men and Angels" for the celebration of Black History month. She asked everyone to take some of the flyers for distribution. She would like the help from the Committee to add additional names to the mailing and e-mail list. She has 178 people on her mailing list and approximately 150-160 on the e-mail list. She is asking that the Commission help add friends, relatives and neighbors to the e-mail and mailing list. Mr. Washington asked that a press release be sent out by the Public Information Township's Officer. Mr. Hinson stated that there was already a press release sent out and the lecture was listed on channels 42 and 1960. Dr. Wieckowski stated that the Old York Road Historical Commission will not allow other organizations to use its mailing list. Mr. McCann suggested using a mailing list from other

groups like Graeme Park and Fort Washington Historical Society to distribute the flyers and other information.

B. Preservation Committee Report - None

C. Museum Committee Report - None

5. ***Chairman's Report*** – (see attached) Mr. Washington asked that tables be broken down that were set up in the Wall House. Mr. Washington gave a "Mission Statement" update and what guidelines it should include. He gave out a sample of mission statements to review. Reviewing of these mission statements may help compile a new mission statement for the Commission. (see attached). Lengthy discussion ensued.

6. ***Staff Report*** – Mr. Hinson stated that fundraising ideas are still needed. Mr. Hinson reminded the Commission again, that ideas can be sent through e-mail or in writing. Ms. Cohen announced several fund raising ideas. They were a Pre-Christmas Craft Show at Glenside Hall with an admission charge. She also suggested a tour of several homes in the Township, sort of like "Turtle Tours." The other idea was to send out invitations as though they were for a ball or dinner while including a little gift such as a tea bag instead of asking for a donation. Ms. Cohen also suggested an afternoon for children like a puppet show and colonial games. Various admission fees were discussed. Activities could take place in the spring outside the Wall House. She stated there could also be bus trips and walking tours of the Township. Ms. Cohen suggested doing activities with the Friends organization. She also suggested having a series of films shown for a fee. Dr. Wieckowski wanted feedback on what the Commission thought regarding a tour of Historic Wyncote. Mr. Harrower liked the idea and thought other areas, neighborhoods or locations in the Township could be incorporated each year.

Mr. Washington stated Mr. Hinson suggested there be a fund raising committee. Dr.Wieckowski will be a chairman for the fund raising committee. He will be putting together a written proposal for fund raising ideas. Lengthy discussion ensued.

Mr. Hinson gave an update for the Curtis Arboretum Conservation and Landscape Management Plan. There are still issues with the Dog Park and Curtis Arboretum boundaries. There are evaluations being done of the properties and mapping of the grounds making sure everything is documented correctly and legally. It may take 2-3 years to complete phase I of this project. The Township will have to apply for more grant funds to do a phase II of Curtis Arboretum. The next meeting is scheduled for April or May 2014. Mr. McCann mentioned that he has been working with Nancy Minich and they have discovered during their research that Frederick Olmstead was not hired until 1936 by Mrs. Bok when she subdivided the Curtis Estate. It seems original landscaping was done by Germantown landscape architect Mr. Thomas Mian. Mr. McCann said this was found to be an interesting new development. Mr. Hinson stated that this is the time to start planning for 2014 applications for state historical markers and that a meeting is still needed to discuss what properties meet qualifications. Mrs. Washington will be meeting with Mr. Hinson at his office regarding the review of the applications for the historical markers. Mr. McCann said applications for historical markers can be sent in during July or August so if any corrections need to be made there will still be time to make the corrections and return the applications for review and approval before the end of the year. Mr. McCann also stated that in the process of the historical markers a person of history can be nominated instead of the historical place or event. Mr. Hinson announced that Mr. Havir is preparing a 2014 Certified Local Government Grant application which is due February 14, 2014. The grant is for $10,000 dollars for preservation planning and can be used for consulting services or historical development projects. Mr. Havir is also looking for other ideas that he can put in the grant

proposal from the Historical Commission. A motion by Ms. Werkman, second by Mr. McCann was made to endorse the submission of a project proposed for consultant services for the BHAR. The motion was unanimously approved.

7. Old Business- Mrs. Washington had a question from the December minutes under Announcements about the storage of the historical books, bank files and materials from the Cheltenham Methodist Church and the Cheltenham Bank regarding where items would be stored. A motion was made by Mrs. Washington and second that the items from the Methodist Church and Cheltenham Bank will be documented that the items are owned by the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission but will be stored and cared for (on loan) at the Old York Road Museum. A letter stating this will be drafted by Mrs. Washington.

8. New Business- Mr. Washington announced the reorganization of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Portner was elected President of the Board and Mr. Simon was elected Vice President. Mr. Washington discussed forming a nominating committee for next year. There is a need for a chair, vice chair and a financial officer. It will be discussed at the next meeting. Mrs. Washington announced a new DVD called "Cheltenham Center for the Cotswolds" from the Twinning Committee. The libraries, Old York Road Historical Society and Arcadia have been given copies. Mr. Harrower announced since he is on the Planning Commission and is a representative on the Ad Hoc Zoning Revision Code Committee; he wanted the Commission to know the Committee completed the draft rewrite of the zoning ordinance and anticipates adoption later this year. He wanted everyone to be aware of public notices that will be sent out for community meeting and the eventual public hearings.

9. Moment in History- Mrs. Washington submitted historical information of articles from Public Spirit and Times Chronicle (see attached).

10. Announcements – No Announcements

11. Good and Welfare- Mr. Washington discussed the importance of signing the attendance sheet when attending meetings.

12. Adjournment - There being no further business, Chairman Washington adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by: Linda Vann

Chairman's Report 09 January 2014

This past year has seen some positive movement toward a more viable museum for the Historic Richard Wall House. The lecture series, under the leadership of Louise Cohen continues to be worthwhile in there own right, but also helps the public with the Wall House under the Commission's oversight. The introductory effort to revive the publication of the Wall Paper newsletter and to reintroduce a "Friends of the Wall House Museum" under the initiative of Dr. Wieckowski is a definite step in the right direction. Knowing of the fiscal status of both the Commission and the operating expenses of the museum, via the monthly accounting reports, has been most helpful. There seems to be interest generated in engaging in some mandated fundraising to ease the burden of expenses.

The student docent program is up and in capable hands under student leadership. It would be helpful to have a Commission member as the liaison between the museum operations and the leadership of the student ranks. This person should also report to the whole commission and work with the high school advisor.

The team of Spruill, Werkman, and Breen worked with Project Director Jack McCarthy and others from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania on the Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories. The museum's archival collections have been added to the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries finding data site. The ratings on various aspects of the collections and their professional recommendations provide the curators with an action plan.

It has been apparent for some years that the Historical Commission has a core of dedicated individuals who endeavor to keep the museum open on Sundays for visitors. The current staff is way too small and overtaxed to continue the present arrangement. To remedy the increasingly difficult situation the openings could be reduced ie 1st & 3rd Sunday monthly or expanding the number of Commission members who are conversant with the house and resident history and who will unfailingly man the Sunday hours of operation. I had proposed in the previous years, enlisting "Friends" to help out. If they are willing to contribute financially, would they also be willing to contribute their time? The average attendance at the ten monthly meeting in 2013 was 9.6.

In addition to the initiatives already started, the Commission would be well to take a long look at the MAPI-Naraimore Report and revise our vision for the future, incorporating the Best Practices into the site.

I'll leave you with a set of goals for strategic planning. The first goal would be to strengthen and broaden our financial resources to assure the museum's ability to grow and fulfill its mission. Second, be a more visible and valued museum.

Jack Washington

The primary function of the Wall House is to provide a conservatory for the preservation of township archives, scholarly research, and exhibition.

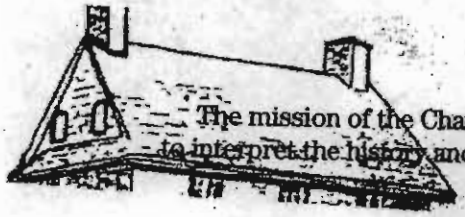
The secondary function is to create a living history museum to portray the life style of township residents during the years of Wall House residency.

This is being accomplished by exhibits of tools, household items, toys, furniture, textiles and fashions, and commemorative items. To make this possible, many volunteers spend hours on research and cataloging, on mounting exhibits, and on the conservation and refurbishing of antique clothing and textiles.

— Dorothy Spruill

(New Mission Statement)

"Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village provides unique educational experiences based on authentic objects, stories, and lives from America's traditions on ingenuity, resourcefulness, and innovation. Our purpose is to inspire people to learn from these traditions to help shape a better future."



MISSION

The mission of the Chadds Ford Historical Society is to preserve the properties, records and artifacts, to interpret the history and to educate the public concerning the way of life in the Chadds Ford area with emphasis on the eighteenth century.

The Education Mission also needs to be based on sound historical scholarship that should be periodically reviewed and updated. This is best done collaboratively with research, collections and educators. By understanding the past we want to interpret we can better define what is unique about our site and what we can do that no one else can do. We also want to be able to show the relevance of that past to our modern audience.

The mission of Friends of the Indian King Tavern Museum, Inc. shall be to raise public awareness of the Indian King Tavern Museum in Haddonfield, NJ, and its role in American history, to assist the owner, New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry, with its operation and interpretation, to promote its educational use by school children and tourists, and to research, acquire and curate objects of importance to its history.

Current mission statement:

Conner Prairie inspires curiosity and fosters learning about Indiana's past by providing engaging, individualized and unique experiences.

Mission Statement

Hope Lodge preserves and interprets an outstanding example of Georgian architecture built for Samuel Morris and, with Mather Mill, interprets the lifestyles of the site and surrounding community during the eighteenth century Colonial and early twentieth century Colonial Revival periods for visitors to and citizens of the Commonwealth.

Moment in History
From Mary Washington

Public Spirit Sat 26 January 1895
Ogontz
Work is being rapidly pushed forward on the arch over the Tacony creek. It is being built of brick

Public Spirit Sat 25 January 1896
Ogontz
Mr. Jay Cooke gave his annual dinner and reception to the young ladies of Ogontz Seminary and their parents on Tuesday

Times Chronicle Sat 22 January 1910
Ogontz and Elkins Park
The gutters and street crossings need cleaning and opening up during the warm weather to allow the water from the melting snow to run off. Some of them seem to have been overlooked

Times Chronicle Sat 27 January 1923
Mary A. Harper died early Sunday morning (21st) in her 82nd year. She had resided all her life with the Joseph Basler family at "The Ivy" Old York road Ogontz, being a first cousin of the late Mr Basler. Her funeral was held on Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from her late residence, with interment private

MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

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

Thursday, January 9, 2014

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
Joyce Werkman			
Lois Hirsch			
Barbara Bartlett			
Lorna Cohen			
Mary Washington			
[illegible]			
James J. McCann			
David Harrower			
Dan Wieckowski			
Jack Washington			

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