

The regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission was held tonight. Members present were: Barbara Bartlett, Timothy Esposito, Lois Hirsch, Jack Washington, Mary Washington, John Washington Jr., 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 – Mr. Washington called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

2. Acceptance of Minutes – Mr. Washington asked for a motion to accept the June 12, 2014 meeting minutes. Mr. Washington asked for a correction to be made under Old Business on page three; Dr. Wieckowski was doing gardening work on his own at the Wall House. The Old York Road Garden Club has been assisting with gardening from time to time with Mr. Washington. Dr. Wieckowski also stated that he is not affiliated with the Old York Road Garden Club. Mr. Washington and Dr. Wieckowski thanked Mr. Hinson for making sure all leaf bags were removed from the Wall House after any work was completed. Dr. Wieckowski made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected; seconded by Mr. John Washington Jr. and unanimously approved.

Mr. Washington asked that there be a “moment of silence” for September 11th and a “moment of silence” in memory of Mrs. Dorothy Spruill.

3. Review of Financial Report – Mr. Esposito gave the financial report. He asked if everyone had a copy of the reports for the Shovel Shop, Wall House and the Commission. He reported that the Commission received the \$500 from the Jenkinstown Lyceum. Lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. Esposito had a question regarding two items listed on the Wall House report. Mr. Hinson stated that he will get a detailed breakdown from the accounting department on the report for any items being questioned.

4. *Committee Reports*

A. Education Committee – No Report.

B. Preservation Committee Report – No Report.

C. Museum Committee Report – Ms. Werkman announced that this summer Ms. Cynthia Wilkinson, who previously donated the doll house to the Wall House several years ago; recently donated two dresses to the Wall House. The baby blue dress with fur trim belonged to her mother which was an evening dinner dress, and the Chinese dress belonged to a friend of hers in college who gave it to her after wearing it a few times.

D. Special Events- No Report.

5. *Chairman's Report* – Mr. Washington stated that there were issues this summer with the alarm going off at the Wall House. He thanked Dr. Wieckowski for all the garden work performed at the Wall House. Mr. Washington also mentioned that he and Dr. Wieckowski had a meeting with Mr. Hinson regarding Phillip Foster who wanted to donate an art piece (sculpture) that was done by the dean of Temple University Art School. Though there were numerous e-mails, phone calls, and discussions; time expired on the offer and the Historical Commission Board couldn't authorize shipment of the sculpture. Mr. Washington stated an "acquisition policy" is needed. Mr. Washington reported that Mr. Havir stated that there has to be a "written acquisition policy" set up and approved before anymore acquisitions can be accepted. Mr. Washington said he hopes the Commission will come up with an acquisition policy as soon as possible. Ms. Werkman had concerns as to whether other items can be accepted for donations while waiting on an acquisition policy to be drafted. Mrs. Washington wanted to know if there is already an acquisition policy available. Mr. Washington stated that he has never been aware of or told that there was a policy. Mr. Washington suggested the Committee work to rectify the issue of the "acquisition policy". Dr. Wieckowski said he will

draft an “acquisition policy” for the Committee that can be reviewed first by Ms. Breen, Mrs. Cohen and Mr. Havir. A lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. Washington announced that a lot of maintenance problems were resolved during the summer. A discussion took place about the hours the Wall House Museum will be opened.

6. Staff Report –No Report.

7. Old Business – No Report.

8. New Business – Mr. Washington announced he had a membership form for the renewal of the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation Magazine. Mr. Washington strongly endorsed the reading of the magazine for its important and interesting historical information. The renewal of the magazine is \$30. Dr. Wieckowski made a motion for the renewal of the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation magazine; seconded by Mrs. Washington and unanimously approved. Ms. Werkman spoke regarding a proposal from a business that wants to have an auto repair shop in the residential area of Sycamore and Cheltenham where there is already a car rental business. She explained it would be unsafe for children and other people in the community. It would create more traffic of cars and no where to park for the residents. The car rental business already there is only supposed to have ten cars at a time, but always has 30-40 cars on the lot. Ms. Werkman stated that if the auto repair place opens there, it will be located about two homes from Camp William Penn Gate (Historical site). This same auto repair company previously requested this space a few years ago and is back requesting double the amount of space on the lot. The owner of the auto repair could not be at the recent Zoning Meeting to discuss his plans. The zoning meeting regarding this issue was postponed to October 20, 2014. The owner of the business and his lawyer can attend the October meeting. Ms. Werkman reported the BHAR can not testify on behalf of the LaMott Community until the building plan is presented to the Township. The Zoning Board will be making the final decision on this project. Mr. Washington emphasized

that a decision must be made about tour openings at the Wall House Museum. Mr. Washington said Dr. Wieckowski, Mr. Hinson and he discussed the Museum being open at least two Sundays a month. Mr. Washington is waiting to hear from the high school to see if there will be decent volunteers available. Ms. Bartlett suggested the museum open at least twice a month. Mrs. Washington suggested the museum open once a month until it can be established that twice a month is needed. Mr. John Washington Jr. asked if more advertising about the museum can be handled by the Township's Public Information Office. Mr. Washington suggested that the museum open only on the fourth Sunday of each month. Dr. Wieckowski made a motion to have the museum open once a month; seconded by Mrs. Washington and unanimously approved. Mr. Hinson suggested in the spring that the museum be opened twice a month. Ms. Bartlett suggested advertising through the Times Chronicle or other papers to recruit new members to the Historical Commission. Mr. Hinson stated that a press release can be prepared by the Public Information Officer. Mr. Washington will make the changes on the signs outside of the Wall House regarding availability times. Dr. Wieckowski announced there will be a Wall House newsletter soon and will add the Memorial and Remembrance of Mrs. Dorothy Spruill. Dr. Wieckowski said he received the approval from the family. Dr. Wieckowski also received a Wall House sign from Mr. Harrower dated 1996 and some photographs for cataloging along with items from the Heller School.

9. *Moment in History* –Mrs. Washington gave a report. (See attached)

10. *Announcements* – No Report.

11. *Good and Welfare* – No Report.

12. *Adjournment* - There being no further business, Mr. Washington made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Dr. Wieckowski.

September 11, 2014 7:30 p.m.
Wall House



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by: Linda Vann

T C Saturday 1 September 1923

Citizens who Desire to Inspect This
Modern and Splendidly Constructed
School

On Saturday afternoon, September
8th, at 2 PM, the citizens of the township
of Cheltenham are invited to attend the
dedication exercises of the Benjamin S.
Myers School. This school is located in
the village of Ashbourne at the head
of Union Avenue just below the old
Ashbourne School Building.

T C Thursday 17 September 1931

Isaac Mather Celebrates Eighty-second
Birthday

Monday, September 14th was the 82nd
birthday of Mr Isaac P. Mather of
Washington Lane and Township Line.

Mr. Mather's father, lived to the age
of 101 years.

(Now the site of Wyncote House)

Public Spirit Saturday September 10, 1904

Ogontz and Ashbourne

Road Engineer Blake reported that the work of repairing the roads was being pushed forward rapidly as possible.

T.C Saturday 9 September 1916

Cheltenham Has Fine Roads

Charles W. Bosler, Road Building

Expert, Places Highways in Excellent Condition

New Method of Oiling Best That Has Ever Been Used in This Section, it Giving the Roads a Hard Asphaltic Surface That Will Resist Automobile Traffic for Two and Probably Three Years



MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

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

Thursday, September 11, 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)
Timothy Esposito			
Jocelyn Hirsch			
Jack Woolf			
Barbara Bartlett			
J. Weckman			
Mary Washington			
John F. Washington			
DR. Tom Wreckowski			