

The regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission was held tonight.

Members present were: Ray Burg, Tim Esposito, Lois Hirsch, James McCann, John Washington Sr., Mary Washington, Joyce Werkman and Dr. 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 7:35 P.M.

2. Acceptance of Minutes – Mr. Washington asked for a motion to accept the December 11, 2015 meeting minutes. Mr. Esposito asked that the word “The Chimp” be corrected to “Mail Chimp” in the meeting minutes of December 11, 2015. It was mentioned four times under item #4. Mrs. Washington made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected; seconded by Mr. Burg and unanimously approved.

3. Review of Financial Report – Mr. Esposito reviewed the financial reports. (see attached reports). The report for the Wall House shows contracted services of \$380. It was \$200 in November which is \$180 more. Mr. Hinson stated the amounts shown are closeouts numbers for the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Esposito reported on the Historical Commission Report. It showed that a book was sold for \$3.00 and the usual phone bill was paid. Mr. Esposito had questions regarding the information shown for the Shovel Shop report. Mr. Esposito revisited the question about the Shovel Shop being leased and asked if the rent information should show on the report. Mr. Hinson stated that these reports are capital reports. The leasing payments are operation cost and therefore not available on this report. Mr. Washington had questions and concerns about the interest that he believed should be accumulating on the Bi-Centennial line of the Historical Commission report. Mrs. Washington asked if the account is in an interest bearing account. Mr. Hinson will investigate.

4. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee – Ms. Cohen was unable to attend the meeting tonight due to her illness. She sent an e-mail requesting that copies be made of the Black History Month Program flyer. She also requested envelopes for the mailing of the flyers. The program for Black History Month will consist of one play. The program will be on February 12, 2015. Originally it was thought that two performances would enact the program as mentioned in the December meeting minutes; however there would have been additional costs. The one play that is being chosen is about Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Douglas. There is a “Talk Back” segment after the performance giving the audience time to question or state their thoughts. Mrs. Cohen is requesting further authorization for refreshments at the cost of \$30. Mrs. Cohen thanked Mr. Esposito for figuring out how to set up the Historical Commission e-mail list on the “Mail Chimp”. She also thanked Dr. Wieckowski for designing the flyer and Ms. Vann, from the Parks and Recreation Department for copying them. See attached.

B. Preservation Committee Report – Mr. Washington has engaged a speaker Mr. Bruce Stocking who will be giving a presentation that is a part of Historic Preservation Program on May 14, 2015, sponsored by the Jenkinstown Lyceum. He is a former National Park Service Ranger who has a talk show in Montgomery County. He is also President of the Hancock Society. Mrs. Washington stated that the Old York Road Society had their board meeting last night and there was a question about the Chestnut Wood property. She said there seems to be a question about the history of that property. She said it is going to be demolished. Mrs. Washington brought out a copy of the Cultural Resource Survey which included this particular property. She suggested doing research on the history of the property so that it might be saved. It is located on Ashbourne Road behind St. Paul’s Church. Ms. Werkman wanted to know the process for

stopping property demolitions. Mr. McCann was concerned that if this permit is enforced for this site; there could be additional permits that might not be enforced for other historical sites.

Dr. Wieckowski made a motion that Mr. Hinson goes to the appropriate Township officials to investigate why this historical property that was to be preserved is now being demolished;

seconded by Mrs. Washington and unanimously approved. Mrs. Washington also asked a

questioned as to whether or not the Ashbourne Country Club Old Farm House was saved. Mr.

McCann stated it was demolished.

C. Museum Committee Report – Mr. Washington Sr. said that the Wall House will be opened the 4th Sunday this month.

D. Special Events- Dr. Wieckowski said there will be an upcoming Wyncote Historical Tour in the spring. He said he will bring in a draft of the program to the next Historical Commission

meeting in February. Mr. Washington Sr. wanted to know if the Historical Commission can

charge admission fees for some of the upcoming special events. Mr. Hinson suggested that the

Commission charge a fee to raise money. Mr. McCann suggested that if the Commission did not want to charge a fee that another option could be to ask for a donation.

5. *Chairman's Report* – Mr. Washington Sr. wanted to wish everyone a Happy New Year. He also wanted to thank those who contributed to the holiday gathering for the Historical

Commission. Mr. Washington had a concern about some cracks on the doors of the Carriage

House that need to be fixed. He asked that when folks hang signs that they be placed on the

glass of the Wall House and not on the painted area of the building. This causes the paint to

come off of the building. Mr. Washington Sr. is making revisions and corrections on the Wall

House handbook for the student docents and Commission members. He stated multiple copies

will need to be printed. Dr. Wieckowski will work on a digital handbook with Mr. Washington

Sr. He also stated that volunteers are needed for the Wall House tours. Mr. Washington Sr.

asked for an updated membership list of the Historical Commission members. Mr. Hinson stated that the list will be available later in the month. Mr. Washington Sr. said he wants to appoint a Nominating Committee. He wants it to be done formally and correctly at the next Historical Commission meeting in February. Mr. McCann had suggested looking into a Face Book page specifically for the Historical Commission to promote historical news and events. Mr. Hinson stated that the Township just launched its Face book page and information can be posted for the Commission.

Mrs. Washington stated she would help with gathering pictures and Cheltenham trivia questions for the web-page, and Mr. Esposito and Mr. McCann would assist. They also stated they would assist the Township public information officer with this venture.

6. Staff Report –None

7. Old Business – Mr. Washington Sr. wrote up a tiering idea for the Wall House Collections. See attached.

8. New Business – Mr. Washington requested a motion be made for a maximum of \$30 for the refreshments for the lecture during Black History Month. A motion was made by Mr. Esposito to fund the \$30 needed for the refreshments at the upcoming lecture in February; seconded by Mr. Burg. Dr. Wieckowski is requested that if anyone wishes to contribute articles to the next newsletter that will be available in February, please do so.

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

10. Announcements – Mr. Washington received a letter from the Township Manager's office. It was a thank you letter from Mr. David Rowland of the Old York Road Historical Society thanking Mr. Havir for historical maps from the year 1883.

11. Good and Welfare – None

January 8, 2015 7:30 p.m.
Wall House

12. *Adjournment* - There being no further business, Mr. Washington Sr. asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Washington made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. McCann.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by: Linda Vann



MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

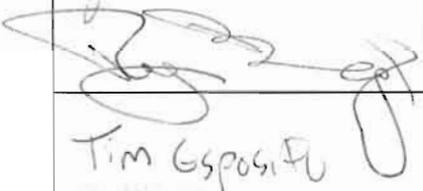
Historical Commission Regular Meeting @ 7:30 P.M.

Thursday, January 8, 2015

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)
Mike Washington			
Joe Kuman			
 Tim Esposito			Rayda02416@ GMAIL.COM
Lois Hirsch			
JAMES J. McANN TH			
Mary Washburn			
Tom Weckowh			

What Artifacts Best Support Our Mission?
Suggested Tiering for the Wall House Collections

- Tier 1 Significant to the families who built and lived in the Wall House or events in Cheltenham Township. Few, if any, duplicates in this or other collections and/or of high monetary value. Rare, likely irreplaceable.
Could be used to tell multiple powerful stories about the Wall House families and their place in the development of Cheltenham Twp.
- Tier 2 Significant historical value to Cheltenham Twp: strong provenance. Few similar examples in this or other collections. Difficult to replace.
Could be used to relate multiple stories about Cheltenham Township.
- Tier 3 Historical value to a location in and around Cheltenham Twp. Provenance limited. Could be replaced.
Plays a supporting roll in telling stories about the evolution of the Township
- Tier 4 Historical value to other locations: No Cheltenham Twp connection. Common in many other collections
Has some use as a prop.
- Tier 5 Limited or no historical value: no provenance

January Moment In History

Public Spirit Saturday January 5, 1895

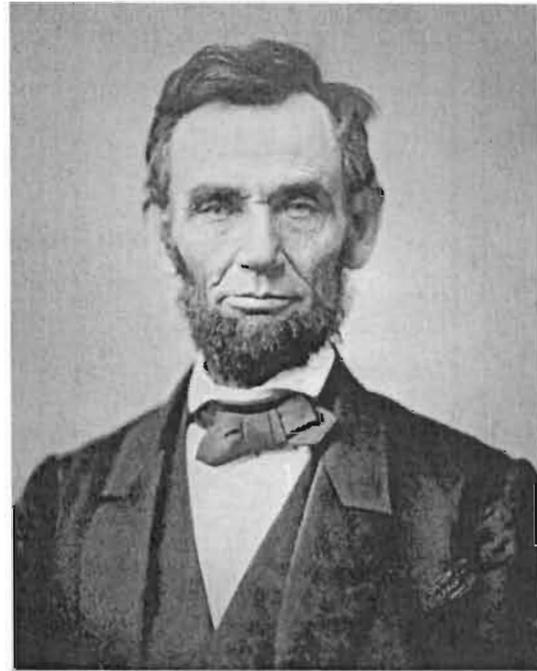
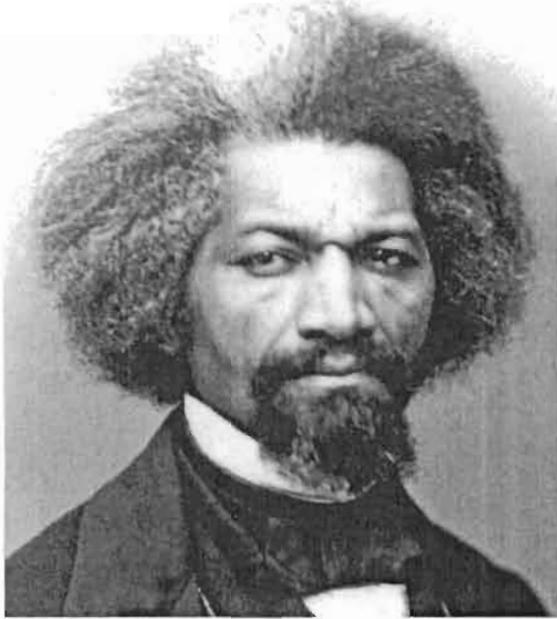
Contractor Blake had been busily engaged this week filling ice houses in the vicinity.

Miss Carolyn Comly Boster will play several bolos for the Farmers Institute at Halboro on Thursday.

Times Chronicle Saturday January 15, 1910

One more proof of the necessity of enforcing the snow and ice ordinance, Tuesday evening of this week Mrs Emma Dutton, residing on Ashbourne road and fell on the ice in front of Louis A. Nagle's property and broke her right arm.

“Mr. President, I am Frederick Douglass”



Celebrate Black History Month

With the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission

February 12, 2015

7:30 pm

Curtis Hall, 1250 W. Church Road, Wyncote, PA

As the nation continues to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission is proud to present the Beacon Theater Company in its production of “Mr. President, I am Frederick Douglass.”

See this dramatic interpretation of the historic meeting between one of the nation’s renowned Abolitionists and the President of the United States who held the future of the country in his hands at this critical moment in history.

Admission is free. All are invited.

Refreshments will be served. Curtis Hall is handicap accessible. The public is also invited to attend the regular monthly meeting of the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission which begins at 6:30pm. Further information is available at www.cheltenhamtownship.org or call Louise Cohen at 215-635-3168. The Commission thanks the Jenkinstown Lyceum for its financial support of this production.