

The regular meeting of the Historical Commission was held tonight. Members present were: Stephen Banks, Louise Cohen, David Harrower, Lois Hirsch, Mary Washington and Joyce Werkman. Staff present was: Bryan T. Havir. Guests present: Tom McHugh, Olga McHugh and Ed Landau.

1. ***Call to Order*** – Chairman Banks called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M.
2. ***Acceptance of Minutes*** – Mr. Banks made a motion to accept the December 9, 2010 meeting minutes as submitted; seconded by Ms. Cohen and unanimously accepted.
3. ***Update on the Museum Cataloguer Project*** - Ms. Karen Karuza, preservation consultant, provided an overview of the past perfect database software being utilized for the project to catalog textiles but can also be used to catalogue tools and furniture and create mailing lists. A representative example was distributed. (see attached). Ms. Karuza finds the software to be user friendly and flexible. Ms. Karuza noted that every textile piece is unwrapped; a description card is handwritten which includes location, description, measurement, and condition. A number and group is assigned. Every object is tagged and photographed and re-wrapped and placed in a box. The same information is then entered into the database and can be found under category (group) location or home location. Part of the information required is the date of the object (which is indicated in decades). Ms. Karuza states that storage is an issue but she is moving forward with the cataloguing. Ms. Karuza noted that cataloging of the various pieces of lace, plumes, feathers, fans were time consuming. Ms. Karuza requested a three month extension to her contract which is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2011. Mr. Harrower made a motion to extend Ms. Karuza's contract for three months to June 30, 2011 which was seconded by Joyce Werkman and unanimously accepted. Ms. Karuza offered to schedule a training session for any of the Commission members who would like to know how to use the software. Ms. Cohen stated that

access to the computer is limited and will have to be reviewed. Ms. Karuza stated she would like to work with an intern from a textile school and discussed how she would like to develop a curriculum. Discussion ensued about oversight and general liability insurance and Mr. Havir noted the intern would need direct supervision from Ms. Karuza and the person would have to be covered by Ms. Karuza's insurance. Ms. Karuza also expressed her opinion that she could foresee for the future making the collection available for research so that the Richard Wall Museum would be both a living and working museum. Mr. Harrower noted we could provide a notice on the website what the acquisitions consist of but not provide a detailed list of each resource in the collection.

4. *Committee Reports*

A. Education Committee – Ms. Cohen reported on the Black History Month Lecture scheduled for February 27, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. Curtis Hall and sponsored by the Jenkinstown Lyceum. Flyers have been printed for distribution. Ms. Cohen will be preparing a mailing from her list. Discussion ensued about closing the Richard Wall House Museum on that date so that members and student docents could attend the lecture. Mr. Banks will inform Mrs. Spruill and Sophia Tomlinson. It was suggested that a copy of the flyer be placed on the door. The docent schedule for the upcoming month was passed around to the members. Mr. Banks thanked Ms. Werkman for volunteering during December and January. He also noted that the Holiday Exhibit was great.

B. Preservation Committee Report – Mr. Harrower provided an update on the demolition permit for 60 E. Township Line Road. The demolition permit application contains a demolition cost of (\$22,660) from Geppert Bros. Demolition Contractors; and an estimate of \$500,000 for rehabilitation which was submitted in an e-mail from Moss Rehab executives. The owner states

the building has not been occupied for twenty years. The demolition permit is being sought to reduce liability on the property. It was noted that this property was not recorded in a Cultural Resource Survey; however, there are several unique architectural features and elements on the building façade that would perhaps date the structure to the mid-to-late 1800's. The Commission's consensus was that the primary 2-1/2 story residential structure should remain and be adaptively reused, but that the garage could be demolished. The Historical Commission suggested an Atlas and map research be conducted by Mary Washington to document the historical importance. Stephen Banks, Chairman of the Historical Commission will write a letter to the Owner suggesting consideration of the structure being adaptively reused; subdivided, or moved to another location, etc. It was suggested that if the owner believes there is a safety concern, that they install a fence around the primary structure. It was suggested that perhaps the Historical Commission offer to have a member, Mr. Harrower, take a look at it for quick feedback and the opportunity to document the building for historical significance.

C. Museum Committee Report – The curator was unable to attend the meeting to offer a report and none was provided.

5. **Chairman's Report** – Mr. Banks asked for three volunteers to participate on the Nominating Committee for Reorganization of Officers. Mr. Harrower volunteered. Mr. Banks will contact two other members from the membership list.

6. **Staff Report** – Mr. Havir referred to an e-mail forwarded to the members for comment regarding a property at 7300 N. 12th Street (aka 1203 Cheltenham Avenue) which was recently declared uninhabitable. The Commission reviewed information and photographs of the condemned accessory structure on the property. Following discussion of the above structure (garage), the Historical Commission suggested that a member of the Commission conduct an

atlas and map research for the property which would include the main mansion for historical information. The exterior of the structure in question appears to be intact with Wissahickon schist exterior stone walls and mortar composition. The Colonial Revival architecture would suggest the building was constructed circa 1910-1920's. The owner should be encouraged to bring the building up to code before demolition is considered.

7. Old Business –

Mr. Ed Landau offered an update on Kerlin Farm (Heidelberg Estate) and passed around photographs. His observation, as well as some others, was that there was still integrity in the foundation and walls of the original structure. The 1682 basement has a staircase leading down to it, and the beams appear to be cedar, perhaps three centuries old and cut down from the property. Mr. Landau noted the building is a time capsule and is unique. It might be the only property associated from an original land grant from William Penn which also retains an original structure. Mr. Landau continues to get the word out. He stated that he has received numerous contacts since the last meeting from others, including contact with Cheltenham School classmates, and one classmate who had first hand knowledge of the main house because her mother had lived in the house in the 1940's.

Ms. Cohen suggested contacting the National Park Service Architect for the Independence Hall project. Mr. Landau stated that Mr. Smith has been in the loop. Mr. McHugh suggested contacting Friends Rehab in Philadelphia who had recently rehabilitated a mansion in West Philadelphia. Mr. Landau reported that the current owner did not see value in the existing building and was not open to withdraw a demolition permit application at this time. Mr. Harrower had contact with the owner and reached out to architects, engineers, realtors, surveyors. Members of the Preservation Alliance wrote articles and Marita Krivda-Poxon who

just finished her book on Oak Lane as part of the Images of America series made outreach. Mr. DiBenedetto, Architect, has been in contact with the owner and others regarding the development of the property. In the meantime, interested parties were able to salvage some hardware and mantels from the building.

Mr. Harrower announced that the zoning issue with the Penske Truck Leasing business in La Mott was coming back to the Zoning Hearing Board next month.

8. *New Business* – Mrs. Washington announced that some past Commission members had passed away recently, Mrs. Roslyn C. Sklaroff and Mrs. Ilse E. West.

Mary Washington announced that the Jenkintown Library will present “The 3rd Regiment Infantry of the United State Colored Troops” on Saturday, February 5, 2011.

Ms. Werkman announced that the Citizens for the Restoration of Historical La Mott will host a program featuring Michael Coard, Attorney/Activist who will talk about Black/African/American history and heritage on February 13, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. at the La Mott Community Center.

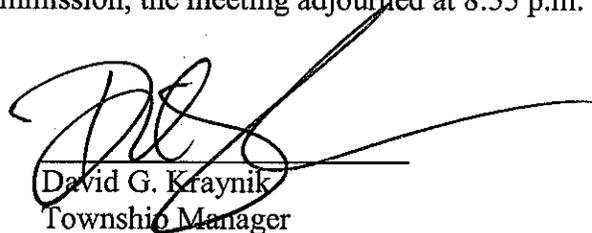
Mrs. Washington shared some information on early houses in the Township and noted that part of her property and home at 371 E. Church Road was part of a land grant. In particular, a part of her home was originally part of slave quarters owned by Tobias Leech. The Leech family did occupy these quarters at one time when the Manor House burned in the 1700's. This was a little piece of history verified by John Milner. There remains some post and knob electric; a walk-in fireplace and lintel. The chimney has lug poles and it also has an eighteenth century stone wall.

9. *Citizens Forum* - Guests Tom and Olga McHugh mentioned their interest in preserving historic train stations and asked if the Commission had ever had discussion about restoring

Cheltenham's various Train Stations. Mr. Banks stated that it had not come up. Mr. McHugh stated their particular interest was in preserving Jenkintown Train Station. He spoke about SEPTA's current policy. He noted that unused buildings go into ruin. Mr. Harrower wanted to speak with Mr. McHugh regarding stimulus funds, budgets, etc.

Additionally, Mr. McHugh had noted that he was a member of the Revolutionary War Re-Enactment Fourth Continental Light Dragoons. He was beginning to research the Battle of Edge Hill and noted how large an event this was with 12,000 British Troops and 11,000 Continental Troops. Mr. Harrower noted that Mr. Wieckowski might have some information to share. It was also noted that Mr. Jack Washington, Sr. set up an exhibit in the past at the Wall House on the Revolutionary War. Ms. Cohen noted that she had an e-mail for Mr. Steve Conrad, PhD. who had researched the battle.

10. Adjournment - There being no further business, upon motion of Mrs. Washington, seconded by Ms. Cohen and approved by the Historical Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.



David G. Kraynik
Township Manager

Submitted by: Kathryn McDevitt



MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

Historical Commission Regular Meeting @ 7:30 P.M.
Thursday, January 13, 2011

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			
Louise Cohen			
J Weikman			
Dave Harrower			
Leis H. Hersch			
ED LANDAU			
Tom McHugh			tom.mchugh@moniboundata.com
Steve Bauer			

Collection Costume and Textiles
Other#
Old#
Accession#
Received as
Cataloged by kk
Source
Creditline

00190007w1ab.JPG



9000.7w.1ab wedding gown front

Home loc Box 27/temp. 3rd floor
Description ivory taffeta wedding gown with lace trim and train
 band collar with alce overlay
 cuffs with lace overlay
 bishop sleeve
 3 pleats on each side cf with lace trim from front neck to hem
 6 self covered wrist buttons
 cb zipper
 bow at cb
 lace trimmed hem
 Label "size 10 sample"
 b white nylon petticaot with 3 cb hook and eyes
 Curator's note: "Donated by Mrs. John Smith"

Date		Status date		
Year Range	1960 - 0	Status by		
Condition	very good	Status		
Height	0.000 ft	Width	0.000 ft	Dim Notes
Length	0.000 ft	Depth	0.000 ft	
Diameter	0.000 ft	Circum	0.000 ft	
Weight	0.000 lbs	Count		
Collector		Coll date	/ /	
Site		Site#		
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Event				
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Provenance				

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