

The regular meeting of the Historical Commission was held tonight. Members present were: Stephen Banks, Cynthia Breen, Louise Cohen, David Harrower, Lois Hirsch, James J. McCann, III, Dorothy Spruill and Joyce Werkman. Guests present: Karen Karuza and Jim Loudon. Staff present was: Bryan T. Havir.

1. ***Call to Order***. – Chairman Banks called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.
2. ***Acceptance of Minutes*** – Mr. Banks made a motion to accept the September 16, 2010 meeting minutes as submitted, seconded by Mr. Harrower. The motion was unanimously accepted.
3. ***Old Business*** – Mr. Banks announced that Karen Karuza, Preservation Consultant for the cataloguing project of the museum textile collection, asked to give an update to the members on her progress to date. Mrs. Karuza reported that she had completed cataloguing the collection stored in the basement comprised of 258 pieces. This accounts for approximately 20% of the cataloguing process. Mrs. Spruill noted that Mrs. Karuza's son was helpful in moving the boxes from the basement. Photographs were passed around showing a small sample of the techniques that are valuable. Mrs. Karuza provided a print out of the "inventory key" she was using to identify and catalog each textile and provided a brief description of the process that she has implemented for documenting each textile based on the latest fashion industry standards. Mrs. Karuza has documented the collection on index cards, through photographs and will be inputting the information in the Past Perfect software provided for this task. Ms. Karuza will need to determine how the database will be structured to locate textiles. Tutorials on the Past Perfect software will be required for the members. Each one of the storage boxes and contents were cleaned. During the process, Mrs. Karuza made a recommendation as a general rule to use only "unbuffered" tissue paper

for textile/costume conservation purposes. Mrs. Karuza noted that the collection has been incredibly well maintained over the years by the volunteer members of the Commission. And, there are many treasures. Mrs. Karuza referred to a sample of French couture (silk, wool and ivory velvet noting the suspension technique). Mrs. Karuza stated that storage is a challenge at the Museum. Mrs. Spruill has provided some space on the third floor to allow for more work space and shelving for storage.

4. *Committee Reports.*

A. Education Committee. – Ms. Cohen announced that the next special public event will be an exhibition celebrating women important to Cheltenham history, American history, fashion and entertainment; A Women’s Exhibit on Sunday, October 24, 2010 from 12 – 5 p.m. Prominent women will be featured. Heirloom fabrics and gowns from the Richard Wall Museum collection will be on display along with some information about each woman whose contributions helped to enrich women’s lives. Mrs. Cohen stated she does not know how many people will attend but she has some volunteers and two student docents to assist with activities on that day. Ms. Cohen passed around flyers and the docent schedule for volunteers.

Mr. Banks noted that there are the same six or seven people out of twenty Commission members that regularly contribute their time to the Museum, especially on Sundays and said it was not professional and not fair to expect the same volunteers to serve every Sunday of the year. Mr. Banks will once again review the Commission membership list to determine active and non-active members. Going forward, Mr. Banks asked those in attendance to think about how to recruit members to serve on the Commission with the expectation that their service includes staffing the museum on Sundays and at other special events. He asked those in attendance to consider how to change the structure on how new members are recruited and oriented. Mr. Harrower volunteered to develop a draft

“Membership Responsibility List” to present at the next meeting. This list could then be put on the Township Website. Mr. Banks asked Mr. Harrower to check other websites similar to the Township’s.

B. Preservation Committee – Mr. Harrower informed the members that the Cultural Resources Survey Update completed last year was issued by the Township to the various libraries, and a copy is located at the Richard Wall House Museum. Mr. Harrower stated that perhaps a glossary can be appended later.

Mr. Harrower reported that at the Ad Hoc Zoning Committee meetings, a Historic Preservation Ordinance is being refined. As part of the ordinance adoption process, a future public hearing will be held for owners of those properties included in the surveys (200) and each will be notified regarding the hearing. He noted that when the Ad Hoc Zoning committee concludes its draft, it will be forwarded to the Historical Commission for comment.

C. Museum Committee. – Mrs. Spruill reported on recent acquisitions from Mr. Greenberg, a Cheltenham High School alumnus and the Old York Road Historical Society (OYRHS). (see attached report)

Additionally, Mrs. Spruill reported on furniture in the Carriage House, for example, the status of the display cases, one of which is operable and the other cases need some bar supports; and the poor condition of the seat and back cushions on the Carriage House chairs. Ms. Breen suggested repairs of the interior water damage on the Carriage House doors. Mr. Havir stated that he would follow up on the chair and door issues.

Mrs. Spruill requested the assistance of the Township’s IT Consultant regarding multi-password accessibility for the computer. Mr. Havir stated that he would follow up on this request.

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Carriage House

Mrs. Spruill also suggested the following schedule for December 8, 2010: A pre-meeting private Holiday party in the Carriage House at 6:00 p.m. in the form of an RSVP light buffet supper. The regular meeting of the Historical Commission would follow at 7:00 p.m. Then, members/guests could tour the Wall House Holiday Display at 8:00 p.m. Mrs. Spruill will coordinate the plans for the Holiday Party. Mr. Harrower made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$100 for Holiday refreshments; seconded by Ms. Cohen. The motion was unanimously accepted.

5. Chairman's Report

Mr. Banks reported that the door lock to the Carriage House was changed and it now locks automatically when the door closes.

Mr. Banks will contact the School Board President, Tina Viletto regarding recruiting High School students to serve as docents.

Mr. Banks was interviewed for a documentary film about the La Mott Community Gardens as he has been a gardener there for sometime. But he also spoke of the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission as part of his interview. Ms. Werkman noted that the documentary film will premier at the Kimmel Film Festival on Monday, April 11, 2011. Nine projects will be featured (two of which are from Cheltenham Township- High School Park and La Mott Community Gardens). Each will air eight to nine minutes.

Mr. Banks thanked Mr. Harrower for manning the Historical Commission's table at the Harvest Festival. Mr. Banks noted that Mr. Harrower gathered quite a few new e-mail contacts at that time. Mr. Banks made a motion that the Commission purchase a table banner for future public events; seconded by Mr. Harrower. The motion was unanimously accepted. Mr. McCann volunteered to work with Nancy Gibson to select the appropriate style and coordinate with the vendor selections since the table banner will be similar to what was purchased by the Twinning Committee.

Mr. Banks thanked Tom Wieckowski and Pat Miller for their participation at the Harvest Festival as well.

6. Staff Report –

Mr. Havir reported that the Public Affairs Committee on October 6, 2010 voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Historical Commission that the spelling of La Mott should include a space between La and Mott (La Mott). It was also noted that La Mott is the only area in Cheltenham Township named after a single person. Therefore, the Public Affairs Committee suggested any logo design for La Mott include an image of Lucretia Mott. Four documents were presented where the image was used as photographic evidence.

Ms. Werkman noted that Lucretia Mott did not like her image used. This would be against Quaker doctrine of that time. Ms. Werkman will contact Abington Friends regarding this matter and report back at a future meeting.

7. New Business - A request for a Proclamation to celebrate on October 27, 2010, the 300th anniversary of the birth of Cremona Morrey was made by Dr. William Pickens, III of New York. Mr. David Rowland, President of (OYRHS) assisted Mr. Pickens with research. Mr. McCann made a motion to have the Staff prepare a Proclamation for the Board of Commissioners' President to sign; seconded by Mr. Harrower. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Mr. Jim Loudon of Cheltenham Village attended the meeting and wished to address the Commission concerning a statement found on the Cheltenham Township Website under "About Cheltenham: Estate Development". Mr. Loudon questioned the statement. - "Harriet Beecher Stowe resided on Elm Avenue while she composed the classic novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*." It is Mr. Loudon's understanding that Harriet Beecher Stowe resided in Brunswick, Maine while writing *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. While Mr. Loudon has just begun his

research in this matter; he believes this reference to Elm Avenue on the website to be an unsubstantiated statement. Mr. McCann referred to Elaine Rothschild's, History of Cheltenham as a possible source. Pending further research, a motion was made by Mr. Banks to request the Township's Public Information Officer to remove the statement from website; seconded by Mr. Harrower. The motion was unanimously accepted.

There was review of a proposal for a World War II Re-Enactment on the Wall House Grounds. Following discussion, it was decided that more information was necessary before this event can be held. Mrs. Spruill will make the contact with the appropriate individual wanting to sponsor the re-enactment and discuss the Township requirements and request that a formal proposal be submitted. Mr. Harrower made a motion to plan for a World War II Re-enactment in March 2011 toward the closing of the World War II Exhibit; seconded by Mr. McCann. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Mr. McCann reported that Patrick McCann has submitted his paperwork for his Eagle Scout Project at the Richard Wall House Museum to Valley Forge Board of Review. He wished to thank the Commission for allowing him to complete his project at the Museum.

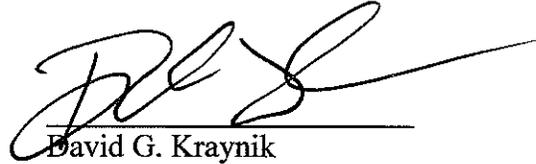
Mr. McCann announced that a former Commission member, Elizabeth "Betty" Adams, passed away. Her funeral will be held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church on Cottman Avenue on Saturday, October 16, 2010.

Also, a neighbor of Mr. McCann, Ms. Moyer who is 90 this year, presented him with a Blackout Wardens Map (1941-44) for the Rowland Park section of Cheltenham Township. Additionally, a Warden Whistle was presented (Henry Hesselbacker). Other items included an American Red Cross Volunteer Pin ARC WWII; medals for George Hesselbacker inscribed CT 1914; CT 7/4/1913 (running/broad jump/baseball player and CT 1914 for 100 yard dash. These items will be donated to the Museum.

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Mr. McCann mentioned the Get Ready for the Jubilee – African American Patriots and the Civil War – United States Colored Troops Grand Review Weekend November 4-7, 2010 in Harrisburg, PA.

8. *Adjournment* - There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Banks, seconded by and approved by the Historical Commission, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DK', written over a horizontal line.

David G. Kraynik
Township Manager

Submitted by: Kathryn McDevitt

Dorothy Spruill

From: Dorothy Spruill [dls829@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2010 5:30 PM
To: 'wallhouse@whmpa.com'
Subject: museum report

Wall House Museum Report October 2010

Acquisitions: We have received a large filing cabinet from Reynold Greenberg and several items from a graduate of Cheltenham High School including El Delators from the 1920s. The Old York Rd. Historical Society has donated children's carriages, farm tools, kiddy cart, creosote burner, harness yoke, and a slate.

Carriage House: One case has been put in operable condition by my son and bar supports have to be purchased for other cases. Steve Banks took the extra shelves to storage. It is my hope that all cases will be filled by the next meeting. I want to call attention to the backs of these chairs. They are wearing out to the extent that is embarrassing. New chair backs should be ordered, but since the chairs are now used by multiple organizations, perhaps the cost of replacement should not be entirely ours.

Computer: The computer was set up with a private password to send e-mails. I was made to promise not to reveal the password. In the meantime both Louise and David wish to send e-mails from the computer. I was told that at some future date perhaps a multi-person password could be installed for the use of authorized people. I think this matter should be addressed. The one issue that was discussed is that the Wall House special e-mail pass word can not be transferred to a private computer.

Christmas: As some of you may know the Township Calendar lists a holiday party at the Wall House at 8 PM on our Dec meeting night. At this time there will be on view a special Christmas display consisting of the appropriate decorations for the eras of each room. There will be 10 displays, and 8 trees. Though the Hessian soldiers brought the Christmas tree from Germany, the custom was not adopted by the colonials, Light refreshment such as cider and cookies will be served. That means there can be no holiday party given for the commission members and their guests. since many members will have to be on duty in the house itself. Therefore I discussed with Steve and Bryan to have a pre meeting private party here in the Carriage House at 6 o'clock. It would be in the form of an RSVP light buffet supper with the usual liquid refreshments. The usual guest list of spouses and invited guests, as well as commission members would have to be as I said on a strictly RSVP basis. If this is approved monies will also have to be approved. Last year's party was multi-invitational and expensive, this will not b an open ended party.

Dorothy Spruill, Museum ch.



MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

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

Thursday, October 14, 2010

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)
Lois H. Hirsch			
Jim Loudon			
Karen Karver			
J. Werkman			
D. Speiull			
JAMES J. MCCANN ^{III}			
Dave Harrower			
Cynthia Green			