

The regular meeting of the Historical Commission was held tonight. Members present were: Stephen Banks, Barbara Bartlett, Cynthia Breen, Louise Cohen, Ellen Gartner, Reynold Greenberg, Lois Hirsch, Dorothy Spruill, Mary Washington and Tom Wieckowski. 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 June 10, 2010 meeting minutes as submitted, seconded by Ms. Cohen. The motion was unanimously accepted.
3. *Committee Reports.*

A. Education Committee. – Ms. Cohen announced that the next public presentation will be a special 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. Ms. Cohen passed around flyers to the members for distribution. Ms. Cohen asked for volunteers to assist with activities on that day and hoped that the docents would assist with tours. Ms. Cohen asked for a motion to approve \$50.00 for refreshments which was seconded by Mr. Banks. The motion was unanimously accepted. Ms. Cohen passed around the schedule for volunteers.

B. Preservation Committee – No report was available as Mr. Harrower was not present.

C. Museum Committee. – Mrs. Spruill announced that the current edition of “The Wall Paper” was available at the meeting and noted that there were articles regarding the opening of the World War II exhibit in September at the Wall House and the multi-organizational WWII Memorial Exhibit and Pearl Harbor Exhibit to be held in December: Keneseth Israel on December 10, 2010 and The Wall House on December 11, 2010. Mrs. Spruill stated that she had a recent conversation with a township resident that is a member of a local

September 16, 2010

Carriage House

encampment group that was willing to provide a World War II Re-enactment on the grounds around the Wall House to coincide with the Exhibit and Veterans Day. Mr. Banks stated he would speak to the individual in the upcoming week regarding a date. Mrs. Spruill also made reference to past issues of the "The Wall Paper" which have some interesting articles. They can be found on the display case.

Mrs. Spruill announced that the Wall House received the furniture promised from Cliveden and Upsala. However, the Wall House did not receive the oriental carpet that had been promised. Mrs. Spruill spoke of a \$300 monetary donation she had received from a requester group to be used for the Wall House at her discretion. Mrs. Spruill suggested that perhaps this donation could be used for the purchase of an oriental carpet when it is put up for auction at Freeman's. Mrs. Spruill asked if the members would consider approving a motion to recommend to match \$300.00 to purchase a carpet for the new Victorian living room if the auction bid price would go that high. Mr. Greenberg made a motion to approve a matching amount no larger than \$300 to be made available for purchase of the oriental carpet which was seconded by Ms. Cohen. The motion was unanimously accepted. Mrs. Spruill stated that the Wall House had received a donation of perambulators for a baby and for dolls, one of which was a wicker piece dated from early 1900's; a display case and several farm and garden tools and a bottle capper from the Old York Road Historical Society (OYRHS).

Mrs. Spruill announced that the Wall House had six bound newspaper volumes of the Easton Road Guide removed from the Rowland Community Center and stored at the Wall House several years ago. Through conversation with Mr. David Rowland, President of the OYRHS, he stated that OYRHS would attempt to secure funds to digitalize the Guide for permanent storage at the OYRHS and that the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission (CTHC) would have access to it at anytime. Mrs. Washington stated that microfilm at the OYRHS is accessed on a regular basis for research and the additional volumes of the Guide

would add to the collection of similar newspapers such as the Times Chronicle, Public Spirit, Willow Grove Guide, Ambler Gazette, etc. Mr. Wieckowski offered to work with Mrs. Spruill to relocate the Guide to the OYRHS. Ms. Cohen made a motion to de-accession the six volumes of the Easton Road Guide (1930-40's) to the OYRHS for preservation with the understanding that the CTHC have access at anytime; seconded by Mr. Greenberg. The motion was unanimously accepted.

D. Market Day Wrap Up – Mrs. Hirsch reported that the weather was magnificent for the Market Day event although there were fewer visitors and vendors this year. There were 34 paid vendors with two no shows and two tables representing the Township Citizen Committees. Revenue was as follows: Bake Sale - \$29.55, Food Vendor Donation - \$30.00; Donations - \$51.00 and Vendors - \$825.00; Expenses - \$4.85 for a Net Total of \$930.70. Mrs. Hirsch thanked the members and Township staff for their help.

Mr. Greenberg noted that on Market Day there were continuous soccer games scheduled at Wall Park which made parking difficult. Mr. Banks offered to speak with someone associated with the Cheltenham Athletic Association and Auxiliary Police to discuss solutions for scheduling and parking issues for future events.

4. Chairman's Report

Mr. Banks announced that student docents are beginning to trickle back. One student who volunteered last Sunday is recruiting new docents. She felt that after next week when students would be signing up for the National Junior Honor Society, that students would be interested in signing up as volunteer docents and receive service credits for their participation.

5. Staff Report –

A. Mr. Havir stated that he will be working with Mr. Banks and Mrs. Spruill on next year's budget needs for the Commission and the Wall House. He also asked that if anyone has suggestions for projects, to please communicate them to him. Four suggestions for repairs to the Wall House were made:

- 1) Repair to the climate control system in the basement of the Museum. Mr. Havir noted a contractor will be required to obtain pricing.
- 2) Repair of Spring House floor.
- 3) Replace split rail fence to stairs in the Spring House.
- 4) Replace screening in smokehouse.

Mr. Havir noted that items 2, 3 and 4 could be accomplished using in-house personnel.

B. Mr. Havir reported that the application for \$20,000 from *Preserve America* for Phase III Cultural Resource Survey was not approved by the federal government. However, the National Park Service stated there will more than likely be a small grant round for 2011 *Preserve America* funding in February. It is noted that our proposal was given a high ranking and Mr. Havir will resubmit an application in February.

C. Mr. Havir wished to acknowledge the Eagle Scout #22 Troop Project recently completed by Patrick McCann on the grounds of the Wall House Museum. Patrick, with the assistance of Jim McCann along with Mr. Tom Johnston from ThinkGreen, Inc., completed a landscaping project which included providing a pathway to the Smokehouse utilizing Franklin Court brick, crushed stone, reclaimed millstones, and drainage and grading improvements. The Commission proposed that a plaque be made for the smokehouse regarding the Eagle Scout Project. The members recommended that Mr. Havir get pricing for the plaque and report back at the next meeting.

6. Old Business

A. Museum Cataloguing Project – Mr. Havir reported that he recently contacted Ms. Karen Karuza via e-mail regarding the status of the project and requested past due monthly reports and invoices. Mr. Havir stated that quarterly reports are due to the State.

B. Mrs. Washington made a recommendation that a letter of acknowledgement and thanks be sent from the Chairman to Susan Axelrod for her work on The Wall Paper.

C. Mr. Greenberg inquired about the status of the LaMott Community Garden. Mr. Havir responded that the Township has sent a letter to Temple University requesting that when they are ready to make a decision, that Temple University consider donating that parcel to the Township.

7. New Business

A. It was recommended at the June 2, 2010 Public Affairs Committee that historian experts on the Historical Commission should be charged to do the research to establish the correct spelling of LaMott using primary source information. A sub-committee was appointed at the Historical Commission's June meeting on which Mrs. Washington and Mr. Wieckowski volunteered to serve. The sub-committee was charged with presenting their findings and for the Historical Commission to make a recommendation to the Public Affairs Committee for consideration at their next meeting on October 6, 2010.

Mrs. Washington and Mr. Wieckowski presented their findings based on two primary source documents from the National Archives: 1) An original application from the Post Office Department, Office of the First Assistant Post Master General, Washington, D.C., dated April 16, 1888 for the Post Office to be called "La Mott" which was signed by Harvey G. Magargal, Postmaster at Oak Lane, PA. A map was included with the application and, 2) a document from the Post Office Department, Fourth Assistant Postmaster General, Washington, D. C., dated July 9, 1915, regarding a new location in which it was written

September 16, 2010

Carriage House

“La Mott” in the space for the name of my Post Office signed by Postmaster, Jas McConnell.

A diagram was included with the application. Additional railroad atlas maps of the period (1871-1916) were provided that included several different spellings of LaMott. It was noted that the residents wanted to keep “Camptown” as the name of their Post Office but there was another Post Office by that name in the State of Pennsylvania.

Additionally, Mr. Wieckowski made reference to an article from The Patriot, a newspaper of Harrisburg dated Friday, July 29, 1894, in which an announcement of an appointment of a Post Master for the LaMott Post Office was spelled La Mott. Following the presentation, Mrs. Spruill made the motion to make a recommendation to the Public Affairs Committee to consider that the current spelling of LaMott be changed to read La space Mott, La Mott; seconded by Mr. Wieckowski. The motion was unanimously accepted. (See attached documentation.)

8. Adjournment - There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Greenberg, seconded by Mrs. Washington 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, September 16, 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. Herich | | | |
| Louise Cohen | | | |
| Mary Washington | | | |
| Richard Greenberg | | | |
| M. O'Neill | | | |
| C. Green | | | |
| B. Battist | | | |
| Tom Wachinski | | | |
| John [unclear] | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

