

June 10, 2010  
Curtis Hall

The regular meeting of the Historical Commission was held tonight. Members present were: Stephen Banks, Alan Barrows, Barbara Bartlett, Lenore Davies, Reynold Greenberg, David Harrower, Jim McCann, Dorothy Spruill, Tom Wieckowski and Mary Washington. Guests present were: Patrick McCann of Scout Troop #22 and Diane Williams, LaMott resident. Staff present was: Bryan T. Havar.

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 May 13, 2010 meeting minutes as submitted which was unanimously approved by those in attendance.
3. ***Committee Reports.***

A. Education Committee. –Mr. Banks read the Education report in Ms. Cohen's absence. The presentation held on May 13, 2010 at Curtis Hall in honor of National Preservation Month featuring a lecture on the history of Wyncote by Mr. Wieckowski who authored, Making Marathon, A History of Early Wyncote was very well attended with approximately 80 in attendance. The report noted that 450 flyers as well as 50 e-mails were sent out advertising the event. The e-mail list should be expanded.

At least 80 fourth grade students from Myers Elementary School visited the Richard Wall Museum on May 20, 2010. Six high school docents participated with the assistance of Lois Hirsch. The docents dressed in colonial costumes along with Mr. Roy Hollinger. Mrs. Tuckman and Ms. Breen conducted the activities outside the House which included colonial style games and a housekeeping utensils and tool demonstration after the tour, which was greeted with enthusiasm.

B. Preservation Committee – Mr. Harrower reported that the Executive Committee recently met and a couple of issues were discussed. First, the members felt that the Historical

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Commission should have some presence at some of the Township community events to let people know who they are and to help increase the number of people volunteering for the Historical Commission. Mr. Harrower suggested having a table and providing brochures on local history at the Glenside Street Fair (First Saturday in October) and the Harvest Festival (second Saturday in October). Mr. Wieckowski volunteered to assist. Mr. Banks suggested that the Executive Committee members work on the activity with Mr. Harrower. Mr. Harrower will contact John Hoover and Ruth Shaw about having a table at both of the events.

C. Museum Committee. – Mrs. Spruill will check to see if the Cheltenham High School eleventh graders will serve again as docents for next year and also to see if anyone was willing to help this summer.

Ms. Spruill will be meeting with Ms. Karusa to go over changing the former Military Exhibit Room into a storage and workroom.

Ms. Spruill stated that she inquired about the furniture promised from Cliveden and Upsal and was informed that letters of transfer have been prepared.

Mrs. Spruill thanked Mr. Washington for bringing down the divider for the Pearl Harbor exhibit.

Mrs. Spruill reported that the Spring House has a hole in the floor. Mr. Havir will follow up on this.

Mrs. Spruill reported on the materials that were stored at the Rowland Community Center and sorted out by John Washington and Mary Washington and Mrs. Spruill. Additionally Mrs. Spruill and Ms. Gartner marked 25-50 boxes for disposal with an "X" and also disposed of 150 boxes.

Mrs. Spruill shared with the members her experience with recent internet inquiries which included requests for brochures and event schedules from Gloucester, United

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Kingdom and inquiries on how to find an appraiser. She responded with some information and received a thank you.

Mr. Banks announced that Mrs. Hirsch and he will work on organizing help over the summer months for Market Day to be held on September 11, 2010. Mr. Banks brought up for discussion the continuation of having a white elephant table and a bake sale table. Following discussion, Mr. Barrows made a motion to drop the white elephant table but continue with the bake sale table which was seconded by Mr. Wieckowski and unanimously approved.

#### **4. Chairman's Report**

Mr. Banks stated that the production of the "Wallpaper" was in progress and that he had the draft in his possession for review from the editor, Ms. Axelrod.

Mr. Banks also stated that at the recent Executive Committee meeting, the members decided to delegate supervision of the Museum Catalog project to the Museum Committee and keeping the Chairman informed.

Mr. Banks announced that he had contacted "RSVP" via their website and had applied for docent assistance. Mr. Banks will continue dialogue with RSVP. Should agreements need to be signed, the solicitor will be asked for his opinion.

Mr. Banks informed the members that he distributed certificates to the high school docents in a ceremony at the High School this past Tuesday. Mr. Banks wrote a personal letter of thanks to Ms. Abiola Ogunsola in recognition of her fine example. He felt the high school students did a fine job this year. Mr. Banks stated that the School Board President made the comment that this venture was a good example of how two agencies can cooperate and work to mutual benefit. Mr. Banks also announced that Mr. Hoff, Chairman of the Social Studies Department at Cheltenham High School, was reinstating service credits for the

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docents. This new enticement should help to increase participation of the high school students as docents for the Wall House.

Mr. Banks referred to the recent Executive Committee meeting and addressed the issue regarding review of demolition permits from the Township. Mr. Banks reported that it was decided that the Chairman of the Preservation Committee, Mr. David Harrower, should review the demolition permit applications and report back to the Commission rather than submitting all the documentation to the full Commission membership.

Additionally, Mr. Banks commented on the process of appointing prospective volunteers to the Historical Commission. Discussion included comments on how to ensure that volunteers are made aware that part of their volunteer service responsibility includes providing docent coverage for tours of the Wall House on Sundays and/or other scheduled events throughout the year. Suggestions included an explanation in the Township appointment letter from the Township Manager, posting additional information on the website via a drop-down box, making a personal phone call before the appointment and/or having the Chairman of the Historical Commission send his own letter which includes information about the above mentioned duties. Mr. Havar suggested that Mr. Harrower contact Nancy Gibson regarding posting additional information on the website regarding the Historical Commission. Mr. Havar, as liaison to the Historical Commission, will speak to the Township Manager in more detail regarding this topic.

Also, at the Executive Committee Meeting, the duration of the meeting was discussed and it was suggested that an opportunity to have a speaker at the meeting to present a topic of interest to the Commission could be scheduled for 10-20 minutes each month. Mr. Banks stated that it would be intellectually good but the meeting would have to be streamlined and sub-committee reports should be accepted.

**5. Staff Report –**

A. Mr. Havir reported that the internet service cable was installed at the Richard Wall House and the modem will need to be scheduled for installation by Comcast. Entering into a three-year term service agreement with Comcast was discussed. The cost is approximately \$59.95 per month. This is higher than the previous quotation we received at \$45.00 for Comcast service earlier this year. The first year of the contract will be covered under the current *Preserve America* Grant via the museum catalog project. However, the next two years will come out of annual expenses. Ms. Davies asked if the three year contract term could be reduced to perhaps a two-year term. Following a lengthy discussion, Mr. Barrows made a motion to move forward on the internet service contract which was seconded by Mr. Harrower and unanimously approved by the Commission members.

Coincidentally, during the installation of the internet service cable, the phone lines were disrupted. Mr. Havir reported that it does not appear to be Comcast's fault. Various phone companies and the alarm company were contacted to trace the problem. Through the process of elimination, the outcome was that behind the closet door in the basement near the tool display where the old phone/alarm box is located, a cover was knocked off and put back wrong which caused the phone lines to cross. Hampton Alarm Company located the problem and assisted in restoring the phone lines. The alarm company sent an invoice in the amount of \$180.00 which the Commission agreed to pay.

B. Mr. Havir reported that the *Preserve America* Program has \$1.3 million dollars appropriated among 37 states this year and an announcement on Cheltenham's \$20,000 application is expected before the end of the month. According to the National Park Service, this is the last round of funding for this program.

C. Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission (PHMC) is promoting a Bill of Rights to promote history education. Mr. Havir asked the Commission to review the information

over the summer that was e-mailed to everyone and this can be discussed at the Commission's September 9, 2010 meeting. Mr. Banks delegated that responsibility to the Executive Committee.

D. Mr. Havir reported that the janitorial services contract with Jani-King had been renewed for an additional year and that in April 2011, a request for proposal for a new three year janitorial contract will be let. Ms. Spruill asked how shining brass at the Museum could be handled. Mr. Havir stated that it could be added to the next contract as a part of the basic services. However, Mr. Havir asked Mrs. Spruill to write up her requirements for next year's contract and send to him for review. Mrs. Spruill also noted that the baseboards need to be cleaned at the Museum. Mr. Havir stated he would follow up. On a related museum topic, Mr. Havir stated that he has someone interested in acquiring the two large display cases in the Carriage House. Following discussion, it was decided that the existing display cases could be more effective if they had additional shelving and if they were lighted. Mr. Harrower offered to follow through on installing the extra shelving and checking to see if the existing lighting can be tested and made operational. A motion was made by Mrs. Washington to keep the existing display cases and seconded by Mr. Wieckowski, the motion passed.

E. Mr. Havir reported on the window, door and woodwork restoration at Cheltenham Center for the Arts (a.k.a. George K. Heller School) bid results. The bids were vetted by the project architect consultant and Township Staff, and the Public Works Committee recommended to the Board of Commissioners that the contract be awarded to Twining Construction Company, located in Newtown, Pennsylvania. The contract includes all wood windows being restored as well as nine vinyl windows being replaced with wood, in addition to restoration of the cupola and basement window. The project will commence on June 21, 2010 and will be completed by the end of the year.

**6. New Business.**

A. Mr. Banks stated he had received an e-mail from Mr. Havir regarding the correct spelling of LaMott and asked Mr. Havir to give the Commission members some background. Mr. Havir stated that at the May and June Public Affairs Committee Meetings this issue had been discussed and it was recommended at the June 2, 2010 Public Affairs Committee Meeting to relegate this to the Historical Commission for further research over the summer. In order to be credible, the Public Affairs Committee felt that the historian experts on the Historical Commission should be charged to do the research using primary source information. It was suggested that the Historical Commission appoint a sub-committee who would present a recommendation at the September 9, 2010 Historical Commission meeting and make a recommendation to the Public Affairs Committee Meeting for consideration at the October 6, 2010. Several weeks of research would be necessary beginning with historical books with easy access found at the Township Building and the Richard Wall Museum Library and proceeding to other documented sources. Mr. Banks asked for volunteers to serve on the subcommittee and Mrs. Washington and Mr. Wieckowski volunteered. Mr. Wieckowski stated that the research should go back to primary sources and the sub-committee should do the historic piece and limit the research to an academic pursuit aspect rather than political aspect which can be handled in October.

Ms. Williams, a resident of LaMott, asked to address the members. She stated that she had looked at a few places and based on two facts: 1) a feasibility study done in 1990 by the Department of the Interior and 2) in a Quaker study in which the Library curator of Swarthmore College (founded by Lucretia Mott) found that the spelling for LaMott should be La Mott. Ms. Williams also stated that the historic marker at AME Church spelled LaMott as La Mott. Discussion also included a reference to the LaMott BHAR and their findings

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regarding the spelling. Ms. Williams stated she was happy to hear that the research would be based on primary sources.

B. Mr. Havar stated that he wished to officially record in the minutes that the members of the Historical Commission had reviewed the demolition permit application for the garage and supporting documentation at 8306 Cadwalader Avenue. Mr. Harrower made a motion to recommend demolition of the garage at the above mentioned property with the following conditions: First ...do what is necessary to restore the building and second, if it must be razed and should the property owners decide to rebuild, then reconstruct a new accessory building with in-kind architectural style and massing because it contributes to the character of the surrounding neighborhood. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wieckowski and unanimously approved by the commission members. In addition to the above conditions, Mr. Harrower, Liaison for the Historical Commission, requested that the Building and Zoning Department personnel convey to the property owners, that if they have any questions, they may contact him directly at [daveharrower@gmail.com](mailto:daveharrower@gmail.com).

C. Mr. Havar also announced that a garage located on a property at 239 Glenwood Road, Melrose Park was condemned as it was in imminent danger of collapse. Based on this information, the Historical Commission concurred due to structural issues. It was further added that if the property owners decide to rebuild, then reconstruct in an in-kind architectural style and massing because it contributes to the character of the surrounding neighborhood.

Ms. Williams asked for an explanation of “condemned” and “uninhabitable”. She questioned the responsibility of local government and the property owner.

**7. Other Business** - Mr. Jim McCann introduced his son Patrick McCann and asked him to explain a project he proposed to work on at the Richard Wall House Museum for his Eagle Scout Award. Patrick McCann proposed the construction of a walkway extension at the front

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of the building between the existing walkway and porch using the Franklin Court bricks and to create steps from the driveway to the open parkland area using reclaimed millstones from the adjacent Yorktown site. The timeframe would be August through October. He asked the Commission if they would support his project. Patrick McCann said that his Scout Master approved of the initial concept. It was the unanimous consensus of the Commission to accept the project as presented subject to a written proposal being submitted to Mr. Banks for review indicating all of the details and timeframe. Both the Historical Commission and the Township would need to approve the details in the proposal. It was agreed to allow Mr. Banks to act as clearinghouse on behalf of the Commission. Mr. Havir indicated that the Parks and Recreation Department would most likely need to review the proposal along with a site plan. Mr. Wieckowski commended Patrick McCann for the work and effort he put into his proposal presentation.

**8. Adjournment** - There being no further business, upon motion of Mrs. Washington, seconded by Ms. Davies, and approved by the Historical Commission, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.



David G. Kraynik  
Township Manager

Submitted by: Kathryn McDevitt



# MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

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

Thursday, June 10, 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)
DIANE WMS		267-253-6947	dcbmwilliams @msn.com
Dave Harrower			
Steve Banks			
M. Spruill			
Alan Barrons			
Mary Washington			
JAMES J. McCANN III			
Patrick McCann			
Tom Wieckowski			
Lynne Davis			
Reynold Greenberg			