

The regular meeting of the Historical Commission was held tonight. Members present were: Stephen Banks, Alan Barrows, Barbara Bartlett, Cynthia Breen, Louise Cohen, David Harrower, Lois Hirsch, Jim McCann, Dorothy Spruill, Tom Wieckowski and Jack Washington, Sr. Staff present was: Bryan T. Havir and Carmen Reitano.

**1. *Call to Order.*** - Mr. Banks called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

**2. *Change in Agenda Order.*** Mr. Banks asked to adjust the order of the agenda to allow Mr. Reitano, Assistant to the Township Engineer to review a demolition permit for three out-buildings located at 1509 Ashbourne Road. Mr. Washington made a motion to adjust the order of the agenda.

A. Mr. Reitano explained that part of the review process is to have this demolition permit reviewed prior to demolition to allow for documentation by the Historical Commission before the buildings are razed. Photographs were taken by Township Staff of the front, side and rear of the buildings noting key architectural features.

Mr. Harrower added that this property was recently known as the Wordsworth Academy and prior to that the Stefano Mansion. This property had been included in the Cheltenham Township Cultural Resource Survey Update in 2008. Mr. Harrower further explained that one of the buildings to be demolished is a barn which housed a gymnasium and the other was a garage. Discussion ensued. Upon motion of Mr. Wieckowski and seconded by Mr. Barrows, it was recommended the issuance of a demolition permit for the three outer buildings on the site with the following comments regarding the Mansion and proposed new building be passed along to the Building and Zoning Department. 1) The Commission does appreciate documentation of the Section 106 process, 2) There is concern about proximity of the old building to the new building – fifteen feet, 3) There is concern that

the back of building entry is going away which is detrimental to the character of the historic building and 4) There is also concern about the front entrance and having the historic mansion be preserved in character. One abstention was noted by Mr. Harrower.

B. Mr. Reitano offered a brief history of the site known as 7309 Butcher Street, Elkins Park, Pa. In 1998, a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) was denied for telecommunication antennas. The telecommunications company took the matter to court and a settlement order was decreed. The telecommunications company was allowed to erect telecommunication antennas. Acer Associates, LLC has now submitted documentation including a survey and site description on behalf of AT & T to the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Office (PHMC) for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act application to the Township for reviews and approvals of an additional twelve antennas to be installed on the existing 120' water tank. The Township cannot stop the current telecommunication company from installing antennas; however, approval can be made subject to certain conditions. Discussion ensued and the members asked if a certified sound test is required. Mr. Reitano responded that certain conditions could be included in the recommendation. Upon recommendation of Mr. Washington and seconded by Mr. Harrower, it was recommend to issue a COA subject to a landscaped buffer, sound attenuation, fencing and security cameras for vandals. Additionally, paint color should match the body color of the tower.

**3. *Acceptance of Minutes.*** - Mr. Banks asked for a motion to approve minutes. It was consensus of the Historical Commission to accept the March 11, 2010 meeting minutes with one correction in the spelling of the word, flag, in the first paragraph of page 1.

**4. *Committee Reports.***

A. Education Committee. -Ms. Cohen announced that the next public presentation is scheduled for May 13, 2010 at Curtis Hall in honor of National Preservation Month and will

feature a lecture on the history of Wyncote by Mr. Wieckowski from his book, Making Marathon, A History of Early Wyncote. Ms. Cohen asked for funds for postage, flyers and refreshments. The members unanimously voted to approve an amount not to exceed \$100.00.

Ms. Cohen reported on the successful Black History Month lecture held at Curtis Hall on March 11, 2010. She stated that there were approximately 80 persons in attendance. The audience provided many poignant stories about their ancestors. She expressed thanks to Ms. Werkman for distributing the flyers door to door and arranging the audio-visual equipment for the program and Ms. Indelicato for her assistance in creating the flyer. (see attached)

A discussion ensued about next year's special events. Mr. Cohen stated that she would recommend one lecture to be held in the afternoon. The members discussed the matter in detail and it was the consensus to pursue the following program for 2010-2011:

Black History Month Lecture	Sunday, February 27, 2011	Curtis Hall	2:00 P.M.
Women's History Program	Sunday, October 24, 2010	RWH	12-5 P.M.
Preservation Month Lecture	Thursday, May 12, 2011	Curtis	8:00 P.M.
Market Day Event	Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010	RWH	9-4 PM
	Sunday, Sept. 12, 2010	Rain date	
Holiday Celebration	Thursday, Dec 9, 2010	RWH	8:00 PM

Ms. Cohen made a motion to offer an honorarium to The Citizens for Historic Restoration of LaMott (CHROL) for arranging the speakers for the Black History Month Lecture in the amount of \$50.00; seconded by Mrs. Spruill and unanimously approved by the members.

B. Preservation Committee. Mr. Harrower announced a 2010 Statewide Conference on Heritage, entitled Transportation, Heritage and the Environment on May 18-20, 2010 in Harrisburg.

C. Museum Committee. – Mrs. Spruill reported on the Workshop, Working Together: Preserving the Collection While Educating the Public”, presented by the Rural History Confederation was being held on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at Springton Manor Farm in

Glenmoore, PA. A discussion on the pros and cons of guided tours took place in the morning session. During the afternoon session, the discussion included the fact that both eye and ear are needed to remember conversational and informational historical information, if done well. There was also a discussion on a springhouse, similar to the one at the Richard Wall House Museum, and how water comes in and out. Mrs. Spruill felt that the first floor of the Richard Wall House Museum springhouse should be opened.

Ms. Spruill stated that there have been delays with the donated period furniture items from the National Trust of Cliveden and Upsala to the Richard Wall House Museum.

Mrs. Spruill asked for some assistance with rearranging the carriage house to reestablish it as a visitor center by removing the display cases. Mr. McCann will get back in touch with his contact on the disposition of the two display cases. Mrs. Spruill stated that the cider press has been damaged and no one had reported it. Mrs. Spruill implied that it could be due to use of the Carriage House as an overflow space for Township meetings.

Mrs. Spruill noted that the printer has a problem with the paper tray. The paper seems to crease at one corner and jams the paper tray. Mr. Wieckowski offered to take a look at the computer and printer. Mrs. Spruill stated that there is no instruction manual. Ms. McDevitt will download a manual from the manufacturer's website when she receives model information from Mrs. Spruill.

**5. Chairman's Report** – Mr. Banks stated that he thought the Black History Month lecture was well attended and informative.

**6. Staff Report** – Mr. Havir asked for a motion to approve the National Trust for Historic Preservation Forum Annual membership \$115.00. Ms. Cohen made the motion to approve the renewal which was seconded by Mr. Harrower and was unanimously approved by the members.

April 8, 2010  
Carriage House

Mr. Harrower made a motion to approve the purchase of 500 envelopes for \$120.00. Mr. Harrower made a motion to purchase 500 envelopes for \$120.00 which was seconded by Mr. Washington and unanimously approved by the members. A discussion followed regarding the use of internet addresses, postcards and databases. Mr. Banks offered to write a letter to Mr. David Rowland to ask if he would be willing to share the Old York Road Historical Society's database. Mr. Wieckowski offered to take on the project of setting up a method of collecting and recording data on those that attended the various events. Mr. Barrows stated that the U. S. Postal Service has a resource where you can utilize a database, mail out postcards and maintain a database.

Mr. Havar reported on the progress with the museum inventory cataloguer consultant contract. A weekly schedule was to be established for tracking the time being dedicated to this project. The grant requires documentation which includes a time sheet and an invoice in order for the cataloguer to be paid. This schedule needs to be set. The equipment was purchased for this project. Internet service connection will require additional labor to bury the cable around the foundation without damage to the building and running the line in the vicinity of the copper downspout up to the second floor. The additional cost of \$225.00 has been authorized by the Township Manager. The Township staff will schedule the work. Either Mr. Banks or Mrs. Spruill will be notified of the installation date. Mr. Wieckowski inquired about wireless service. Mr. Havar responded that after review by the preservation consultant, the Township IT consultant, the software company and the Township Director of Fiscal Affairs, it was determined that Comcast At Home was the best service.

Mr. Havar reported that the window, door and woodwork restoration at Cheltenham Center for the Arts (a.k.a. George K. Heller School) bid specification had been reviewed and approved by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). The bid notice was advertised and a pre-proposal meeting was scheduled for April 16, 2010 and the bids due

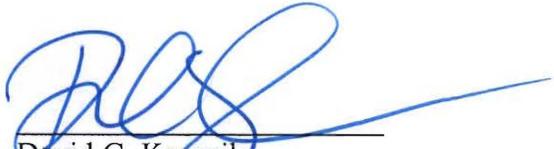
April 8, 2010  
Carriage House

on May 4, 2010. We expect to begin the project in June and complete the project by the end of the year.

**7. New Business** – PHMC had enclosed information regarding a Lowe's Charitable Educational Foundation (LCEF) grant funding in the amount of \$50,000 for historical school buildings through the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This funding could be used for mortar and metalwork restoration to the exterior of Cheltenham Center for the Arts along with some matching funds (50%) for a mobility bond, masonry, metalwork and caulking. The grant is due at the end of April. Mr. McCann made a recommendation to endorse the filing of the LCEF grant in the amount of \$50,000 which was seconded by Mr. Wieckowski and unanimously approved by the members.

Mr. Havir reported that the historical marker for the Henry S. Breyer Estate was denied by PHMC's Bureau of Historic Preservation. The possibility of the Township acquiring and installing its own local marker was discussed. Mr. McCann offered that several years ago he had pursued cost estimates which ranged from \$1,200 to \$1,500 at that time for a local marker that mimicked the state marker for the Shovel Shop. It was suggested that a local preservation marker could be unveiled for the Henry S. Breyer Estate at the next Preservation Month event which could include a Breyer Ice Cream social. This was referred to the Education Committee for follow-up. Mr. Washington is to follow up on the designs for the way-finding signs for the Richard Wall House.

*Adjournment* - There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Banks, seconded by Ms. Washington, and approved by the Historical Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David G. Kraynik  
Township Manager

April 8, 2010  
Carriage House

Submitted by: Kathryn McDevitt



# MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

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

Thursday, April 8, 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)
Louise Cohen			
B. Bartlett			
Cynthia Green			
Lois H. Hirsch			
H. Spruell			
Alan Barrows			
Tim Hoshli			
Jack Washington			
JAMES J. McANN			
David Harner			
Stephen BANKS			

## Education Committee Report for April 11, 2010

A very special program for Black History Month took place on March 11, rescheduled from February because of inclement weather. We are grateful to Joyce Werkman who arranged the program and the TV screen necessary for part of it. It consisted of a film about Camp William Penn followed by a discussion and question period with the film maker, the historian and narrator and two reenactors. There were at least 75 attendees, many with poignant stories about their great grandfathers who had trained at the camp.

Special thanks also to Karen Indelicato for preparing the flyer for that event and for the event that is coming up. Tom Wieckowski will be our speaker for National Preservation Month on May 13. He will talk about the history of Wyncote. His book on Wyncote will be for sale. I would like to request money for postage for mailing the flyer and for refreshments. Thanks to Acme Markets who provided refreshments for the March event.

I would like to suggest some changes for next year's calendar. I think we should try to have at least one lecture in the afternoon. Also it would be very difficult to have an event in February and March unless someone besides me can spearhead one of those days. Since we have had several Black History Month lectures, perhaps next year we can concentrate on the Women's History instead.

Louise Cohen, Education Chair