

The regular meeting of the Historical Commission was held tonight. Members present were: Stephen Banks, Barbara Bartlett, Cynthia Breen, Louise Cohen, Reynold Greenberg, David Harrower, Lois Hirsch, Patricia Miller, Joyce Werkman, Tom Wieckowski, Mary Washington and Jack Washington, Sr. Staff present was: Bryan T. Havir. Also present was Commissioner Harvey Portner. Guests present were: Bill Chambres and Darlene Melton.

1. Call to Order. - Mr. Banks called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.
2. Acceptance of Minutes. - Mr. Banks asked for a motion to approve minutes. It was consensus of the Historical Commission to accept the December 10, 2009 meeting minutes.
3. Committee Reports.

A. Education Committee. -Ms. Cohen reported that the next educational event will be in February, 2010 to celebrate Black History Month. The special lecture will take place on February 11, 2010 at 8:00 p.m. at Curtis Hall following the Commission's regular meeting which is scheduled to commence at 7:00 P.M. The presentation will include a video documentary about Camp William Penn entitled "Black Soldiers in Blue", commissioned by The Citizens for the Restoration of Historical LaMott (CROHL). The filmmaker, Warren Bass, and historian/narrator, Jim Paradis, of the 3rd Reg. United States Colored Troop (USCT) Re-enactors, will be on-hand to discuss the video following the presentation. Ms. Cohen made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harrower, to approve \$150.00 for the cost of refreshments and reproduction cost of the "Black Soldiers in Blue" program brochure and mailing costs. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Cohen announced that there was a funding opportunity to sell Mr. Don Scott's "Remembering Cheltenham Township" in the Museum Gift Shop. Ms. Cohen reviewed the costs and discounts available to procure the book. Following discussion it was decided to

purchase a small quantity for the Gift Shop. A motion was made by Mr. Harrower to purchase ten books on consignment (40% discount) with an additional 2% discount for prepayment which was seconded by Mrs. Hirsch. Motion was approved. Ms. Cohen also suggested the Historical Commission consider a date in the Fall of 2010 to have a book signing event on a Sunday.

B. Preservation Committee. Mr. Harrower announced he did approach the Owner of the Ashbourne Country Club regarding the late 1800's farmhouse on the property and received permission to go on site to photograph the Farmhouse.

Mr. Harrower announced a 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. Mr. Harrower made a motion to enroll two members from the Historical Commission for the Workshop at a cost of \$50.00 which was seconded by Ms. Cohen. Initial interest was expressed by Ms. Werkman and members thought that Mrs. Spruill might be interested. Mr. Harrower would forward information via e-mail to the members.

C. Museum Committee. – Ms. Breen announced a World War II exhibit is planned and asked members for items pertaining to lifestyle and any type of military memorabilia. It was noted that Mr. J. Solomon had a large collection.

Ms. Breen stated that the third floor office was moved to the second floor and was relocated to the former bathroom. The sink and toilet in that room have been dismantled and the water disconnected.

Ms. Cohen also passed around a sign-up sheet and requested that docents sign up for Sunday afternoon tours.

4. Chairman's Report. - Mr. Banks stated that he did receive a favorable reply from the Friends of Hope Lodge to the Historical Commission's letter of support offering its

encouragement since the State cut the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's (PHMC) operating budget for this state-owned historical site. Mr. Washington announced that the Friends of Hope Lodge are inviting the public to attend a meeting on January 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Springfield, 1710 Bethlehem Pike, Flourtown to discuss future plans and projects to support the re-opening of Hope Lodge. Mr. Banks stated that the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission is very lucky to be supported by the Township.

Mr. Banks announced that at a recent meeting with the High School History Department Chairman, the Chairman stated they have no volunteers in the current Junior Class able to join with the Senior Class docents but that he will actively try to recruit juniors to serve in the docent program. Mr. Banks will get back in touch with the School District. He also mentioned that he was contacted by LaSalle High School regarding a field assignment that would involve the school visiting the Museum.

Mr. Banks asked for volunteers to serve on the Nomination Committee for the reorganization of officers of the Commission which is scheduled to take place at the February meeting. Mr. Wieckowski, Ms. Werkman and Ms. Miller agreed to be on the Nominating Committee and report back with a slate of officers for 2010.

5. Staff Report. - Mr. Havir stated that a request for proposal for a museum cataloguer was solicited in the fall and sent to seven or eight firms, some of which were recommended by the (PHMC). Two firms submitted proposals on January 5, 2010: Milner & Carr Conservation, LLC, in Philadelphia, a regionally known firm in the amount of \$82,500, and Karen Karuza, independent contractor, of Wyncote, who is familiar with the Museums' collection, submitted a proposal for \$30,000. The proposals were shared with the Historical Commission Chairman and Curator for review and input. Copies were also presented at this meeting for anyone interested in reviewing them. Ms. Karuza is highly qualified and meets

the qualifications for the project. Ms. Breen and Ms. Cohen attested to her credentials. It was discussed that at the Public Works Committee Meeting on January 13, 2010, a recommendation was made that the Township move forward with awarding a contract to Ms. Karuza with the consensus of the Historical Commission this evening. A motion was made by Mr. Washington for a recommendation that Karen Karuza be awarded the museum cataloguer professional services contract which was seconded by Ms. Cohen and unanimously approved by the members. Mr. Havir noted that Ms. Karuza resigned her position on the Historical Commission to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest. Mr. Havir reported that the PHMC Historical Marker Nomination for Henry W. Breyer, Sr., was submitted January 5, 2010. He stated that the PHMC had previously recommended additional documentation about patents and mechanical freezers which we were unable to find. We were able to document, through company records that Breyer's was the oldest manufacturer of ice cream in the country dating back to the beginning of the Reconstruction Period and that Mr. Breyer developed innovative ways of distributing his products from the city to the suburbs. This was the second time the nomination was submitted to the PHMC.

6. Old Business: Demolition permit application for 1245 Church Road property - Mr. Harrower raised the question about two buildings located at that address. Mr. Havir stated that the applicant submitted a site plan and the buildings are identified. After review of the structural engineer's report, a motion was made by Mr. Washington to recommend demolition and seconded by Mr. Wieckowski. Motion was unanimously approved.

7. New Business:

A. Mr. Havir announced that the annual Certified Local Government (CLG) grant deadline was due January 15, 2010. The Township was submitting an application to offset fees for a consultant to give advice to the Wyncote BHAR. Mr. Havir asked for the

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Historical Commission's recommendation in support of filing application. A support letter was prepared for Chairman Banks to sign.

B. Mr. Havir stated that the FY 2010 National Preservation Awards nomination deadline is March 1, 2010. If anyone knows of a project, let him know. Mr. Havir mentioned that Beth Sholom secured a federal grant for a study to explore energy efficiency upgrades. Depending on the scope of work, the project may be eligible for a National Preservation Award in the future.

C. *Preserve America* Project - grant application due February 12, 2010. Mr. Chambres, of the Westbrook Rock Hill Foundation, addressed the membership regarding his proposal to partner with the Historical Commission to apply for a grant. The grant would be comprised of three parts – two educational components would include developing a hip pocket edition of the U. S. Constitution (with a commentary explaining what each section means) that can be made available for all children in the Cheltenham Township School system and producing a CD to distribute to all black colleges in the nation. He said a newly published manuscript of the commentary has been approved. The third part of the grant application would be an outreach component to reconfigure the Historic LaMott website www.historic-lamott-pa.com using Google to make it ADA accessible and compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. Certain websites must be accessible to blind persons as well as other systems making it compliant for other disabled persons.

The membership asked how this would relate to Cheltenham Township's local history and opined that the U. S. Constitution was a very far reaching national topic. There was an understanding that *Preserve America* grants focused on local history and tourism versus national history. Ms. Melton said that Cheltenham Township's local history is more connected to the various amendments made to the U. S. Constitution. Examples given would be Lucretia Mott, who had resided in this area and her efforts to have the government give

women the right to vote and Camp William Penn the only training camp for African American soldiers in Pennsylvania as well as the Underground Railroad. The members agreed that it was important to keep the scope relevant to Cheltenham. Mr. Havir volunteered to meet with Mr. Chambres to develop a more appropriate scope of work which could be submitted for a future funding cycle of the *Preserve America* grant program.

D. Mr. Havir reviewed the various activities, lectures and events that are either being sponsored by the Township Historical Commission, Cheltenham Library System or the Township's Department of Parks and Recreation for Black History Month in February.

Discussion ensued about a special event for March to commemorate Women's History Month. Most agreed it was too late to develop a special program and advertise it for this March. However, Mr. Havir asked the Historical Commission to consider developing a program to celebrate Women's History month next year. The matter was referred to the Education Committee.

Mr. Banks was very excited that Commissioner Haywood had asked about the Township's Black History Month programs. Mr. Banks said he would contact Commissioner Haywood to discuss the Historical Commission's Black History Month lecture series program further. Mr. Banks is interested in getting the message out about the program and hopes to be able to access some e-mail lists. The members suggested contacting the Rotary, Kiwanis, and the Wyncote Civic Association.

Mr. Washington stated that the Pennsylvania Humanities Council (PHC) might be a good resource for speakers for next year's Women's History Month.

E. Discussion of Philadelphia Stewardship Program Application – Mr. Havir explained that the grant funds planning development for emergencies, such as putting things in proper storage, temporary archives for items of historical significance and amount. Ms. Cohen stated she would place a call The Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA)

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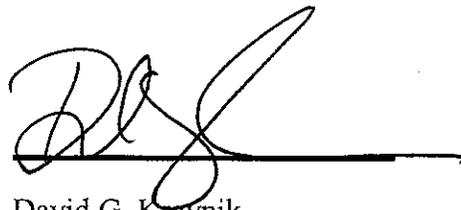
to see if there would be a staff person to assist. After much discussion, Mr. Harrower recommended that we table filing an application in 2010 and we work toward filing a proposal in 2011. Everyone concurred.

Mr. Washington announced a Montgomery County History Expo, June 26-27, 2010 and asked if the Commission would like to sponsor a table at this event. Mr. Washington will provide more information about the event in the future.

Mr. Washington also wished to bring to the members' attention that the plastic message sign placed outside of the Museum on Sundays has been damaged due to wind and needs repair. Mr. Washington stated that it has been at least two weeks that the sign has been placed outside without the proper message on it. He also made the members aware of where the extra letters are stored for messages.

Ms. Cohen and Mr. Harrower inquired about the mechanical operations of the climate controlled storage room in the basement of the Wall House Museum which was raised at a previous meeting. Mr. Havir stated he had not discussed this yet with the Township Property Supervisor and now needs to follow up on the matter.

8. There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Washington, seconded by Ms. Werkman, and approved by the Historical Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M.



David G. Kraynik
Township Manager

Submitted by: Kathryn McDevitt



MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

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

Thursday, January 14, 2010

Carriage House At Wall Park
One Wall Park, 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)
J. Werkman			
P. Bartlett			
Mary Washington			
Louise Cohen			
DARLENE MELTON	1809 CHELSEA RD LAFAYETTE PA 19022	215-817-0725	MBAMDA@aol.com
Cynthia Poreen			
Foia H. Hirsch			
Patricia Nigh			
Tom Wachuk			
Dave Harrower			
Jack Washington			

Stephen Bunker

