

The regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission was held tonight.

Members present were: Barbara Bartlett, Tim Esposito, Lois Hirsch, James McCann, John Washington Sr., Mary Washington, Joyce Werkman, and Dr. Wieckowski. Staff present was: Brian Hinson, Director of Parks and Recreation. (see attached attendance list).

1. Call to Order – Mr. Washington called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

2. Acceptance of Minutes – Mr. Washington asked for a motion to accept the March 12, 2015 meeting minutes. Dr. Wieckowski made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected; seconded by Mr. McCann and unanimously approved.

3. Review of Financial Report – Mr. Esposito reviewed the financial reports. (see attached reports). The Historical Commission report shows income of \$12.00 from books sales and a expense \$83.00 for the telephone bill. The Wall House report shows an income of \$25.00 from gift shop sales and a \$45.00 charitable donation received. Mr. Washington Sr. stated that this makes a total of \$82.00 in income for the month of April. Dr. Wieckowski had a question regarding a \$25.00 “Friends of Wall House” donation made and what account it was deposited. Mr. Washington Sr. stated it may have been deposited under “donation” line account instead of “Friends of Wall House”. Mr. Hinson said he will investigate the information regarding the donation and correct if necessary. Dr. Wieckowski said he wants to make sure that the funds are deposited correctly for the upcoming historical tour. Mr. Washington stated that any checks he receives he will make sure the accounting department deposited them in the correct accounts.

4. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee – Mr. Washington Sr. announced that Mr. Bruce Stocking will be the guest speaker for the National Historical Preservation Month Program. The Historical Commission meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. prior to the lecture which will start at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Stocking will speaking about the history of Montgomery County.

B. Preservation Committee Report – Mr. McCann went to visit the property at 1509 Ashbourne Road which will soon be demolished. He had to sign a liability identification form before entering. Mr. McCann took several pictures outside and inside of the property. He stated that the outside of the property was in good shape but the inside was very worn down was not cost effective to save of the property. Mr. Washington Sr. asked Mr. McCann to be the point person to collect any items if salvageable from this historical property. Mr. Washington Sr. asked for a report on the historical marker at Church Road and Washington Lane. Mr. McCann said the marker had been knocked over. It may have been knocked over from a car accident. He talked to Senator Haywood during his town meeting to let him know about the marker. Ms. Werkman said she also reported this information regarding the marker at Mr. Portner's January and March meeting and he said he would take care of the matter. Ms. Werkman reported that the matter has been taken care of and the marker is now standing upright and back in place.

C. Museum Committee Report – Mr. Washington Sr. was given pieces of the old trolley track from the PECO subcontracted construction workers at Old York Road. He also went to the location with Mrs. Washington and took pictures. He is going to clean them up and have them placed on exhibit at the Wall House. Dr. Wieckowski talked about the Dr. Martin Luther King poster he received from Mrs. Regina Banks. Dr. Weickowski had the poster matted and framed to protect it. Mr. Washington Sr. said the poster is now hanging in the museum.

D. Special Events- Dr. Wieckowski thanked Mr. Hinson for his help with the upcoming Wyncote Historical Bus Tour this spring. It is scheduled for Saturday morning May 16, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. The Commission has reserved a small motor coach bus to tour Old Historic Wyncote. After the tour a reception will be given by the Wyncote Civic Association at Glenside Memorial Hall. Dr. Weickowski is hoping that 25 people will participate to make it successful. Dr. Weickowski mentioned that flyers have already been e-blasted and posted on

Facebook by the Township public information officer. Dr. Weickowski thanked the Public Information Officer and Mr. Esposito for helping to get the information published.

5. *Chairman's Report* – Mr. Washington Sr. stated in reviewing the first quarter financial reports for both the Wall House and the Historical Commission it appears that it might be helpful if a budget was developed in order for the Commission to focus on producing income with anticipation of project expenses. He indicated that the Commission should focus on more types of fund raising in January, February and March. Historically, the Craft Fair was the first special event held during the first quarter of the year. He wanted to know what can be done to help balance the expenses vs the income better for the Commission. He said the Commission can not move forward by depending on casual donations. Mr. Washington also stated that fundraising is really needed throughout the year. He mentioned that the gift shop only made \$100.00 in 2014. Mr. Washington noted that he would like to see the gift shop do better. He said during his years of experiences with tours that a tour guide map adds to the visitor engagement and provides a keep sake memory they can take home with them. Example: Hope Lodge provides tour map to their visitors. Mr. Washington said on Sunday, March 22, 2015 there were four visitors from Germantown. They were given the tour by one of the student docents. This was an exhilarating time for all. He was pleased. Mr. Washington Sr. also reported that the Old York Road Garden Club new members toured the Wall House and held a meeting with refreshments in the Visitor Center on March 26, 2015. Dr. Wieckowski assisted during the tour. He announced that Dr. Wieckowski has completed the editing of the Wall Paper and it is now ready for distribution. He also mentioned that Dr. Wieckowski recently completed a new pamphlet for the tool room exhibit and is also in progress of creating a similar pamphlet for the doll house. Visitors do appreciate the handouts that are provided. Mr. Washington Sr. mentioned that there were two murals from the Breyer Mansion that were being donated by Hilary Hickman. Do to the lack of

space at the Wall House the murals were referred to the Old York Road Historical Society. Mr. Washington Sr. stated that graffiti was discovered on the driveway in front of the visitor center door on April 3, 2015. It has since been removed. The bushes under the kitchen windows were trimmed by Mrs. Washington. Branches were trimmed down that were against the windows and obscuring the candles on Church Road. Mr. Washington Sr. spoke on student visitation. He said the Historical Commission will again be participating with the Ancillae Academy area history program. This program began last year by Ms. Catherine McCann who teaches at the Academy. This program helps the students research various historic sites around Cheltenham Township. Their research is then followed by a visit to the site for a tour. The Wall House is central to the Townships history so it will be toured again by the students. The tour will emphasize on the archives and the buildings evolution. Mr. Washington Sr. stated that the post cards for the museum shop needed to be packaged for sale. Mr. Washington Sr. noted his ongoing concern that at least 45% of the appointments to the Historical Commission have been disingenuous in remaining as active members of the Commission. They contribute nothing to moving the mission of the Commission forward.

6. Staff Report – Mr. Hinson announced that the Curtis Arboretum Steering Committee met on March 26, 2015. Ms. Minich reviewed final maps designs, boundary lines, future projects and activities for the completion of the master plan for the grounds of Curtis Hall. The next meeting is tentatively being scheduled for May 7, 2015. Mr. Hinson announced the tenant that resides in the Shovel Shop received a new lease for reviewed and acceptance. The tenants lease expired on June 30, 2015. The new lease has an increase of \$25.00 for each year in a 3 year period. The tenant has not agreed to the lease yet.

7. Old Business – Mr. Washington Sr. asked that post cards be packed up and set up in bags for the tours.

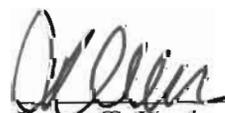
8. New Business – Mr. Esposito noticed that there is outdated information noted on the web-site regarding the Wall House and that this information needs to be updated. Mr. Washington Sr. will check with the Township information person to solve this issue. Mr. Esposito asked that contact information with e-mails, addresses and phone numbers for Commission members be updated. Mr. Washington Sr. mentioned the Wall House tours are listed in the Philadelphia Inquirer; however the hours noted are incorrect. Dr. Wieckowski stated the Society received salvage burned out fireplace tiles from the Milrose Estate of Rodman Wanamaker. The tiles donated are from the year 1884. Mr. McCann suggested the purchase of new T-shirts for the Commission members since we now have new members and the last T-shirt purchased was during the year 2000. Ms. Werkman suggested T- shirts for the student docents as well so they can wear them during the tours. Mr. Washington suggested that maybe the students docents could wear a uniformed color shirt or jacket instead of purchasing T-shirts to save money. A decision will be made at a later date.

9. Moment in History – Mrs. Washington gave a report. (See attached).

10. Announcements – Mr. Washington congratulated Mr. Hinson on his new title as Director of Parks and Recreation for Cheltenham Township.

11. Good and Welfare – None.

12. Adjournment - There being no further business, Mr. Washington Sr. asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Bartlett made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mrs. Washington.


Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by: Linda Vann

Moments in History April 2015

April 5, 1910

The name Fernbrook Avenue officially adopted in place of "Helion Ave and Kent Road" due to residents' petition

April 22, 1912

Special meeting to take action on the death of our honored President, George D. Widener - lengthy tribute in minutes

Elected March 5, 1900 / Board pres.
on March 7, 1904

April 4, 1916

Agreed to join a new association of "Townships of the first class"

April 3, 1917

Continuing controversy between Twp. & Philadelphia & Reading Railway as to who was responsible for the Jerkentown Bridge

April 23, 1923

Approved Phila. & Reading Railway Co. plan

to build overhead bridge on
Ashbourne Road instead of grade
crossing

April 7, 1925

Bridge to be erected at Chelton Hills
& Washington Lane



MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

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

Thursday, April 9, 2015

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)
Jack Washington			
Barbara Bartlett			
Lois HIRSCH			
Timothy Esposito			
John Korman			
JAMES J. McANN JR			
Mary Washington			
Tom Wehrhahn			