

The regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township **HISTORICAL COMMISSION** was held tonight. Members present were: Barbara Bartlett, Louise Cohen, 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 May 14, 2015 meeting minutes. Dr. Wieckowski made a motion to accept the minutes for May 14, 2015, seconded by Mr. McCann, and unanimously approved.

**3. Review of Financial Report** – Mr. Esposito reviewed the financial reports for May 2015. (See attached reports). Mr. Washington questioned why the telephone bill is \$83.00. He asked if the alarm company service is causing an increase to the monthly phone charge. Mr. Hinson will check with the accounting department. Dr. Wieckowski requested that thank you notes be sent to the “Friends of” for their donations. Mr. Washington said he already initiated this process.

#### **4. Committee Reports**

A. Education Committee – Mrs. Cohen announced she has a speaker/lecturer lined up for Preservation Month in May 2016. Mrs. Cohen will be asking for suggestions regarding a speaker/lecture for Black History Month in February 2016.

B. Preservation Committee Report – Mr. Esposito spoke regarding the Falcon Hill Estate in Laverock and Springfield in Cheltenham. The mansion is not going to be demolished at this time. Mr. Washington suggested that Mr. Esposito work with Mrs. Washington regarding preservation issues. Mr. McCann said even though the Ashbourne property has been partially demolished, it has been videoed in its entirety for posterity. Dr. Wieckowski offered a resolution to thank Mr. Esposito for the slide show and Mr. McCann for pictures continuing to illustrate the preservation of history.

C. Museum Committee Report – No Report.

D. Special Events - Dr. Wieckowski announced that the May 16, 2015 tour was a sellout and a success. He stated that Mr. Hinson did a great job setting up Glenside Hall where the tour started. Dr. Wieckowski said he received three thank you notes. It was suggested that another tour take place in the fall.

**5. Chairman's Report** – Mr. Washington Sr. agreed that the bus tour was a success and showed great appreciation to Dr. Wieckowski for his efforts. He passed out a photo album and the Garden Club Newsletter for everyone to view. The Garden Club continues to put forth a great effort. Their purchases of plants, soil and wood chips – all installed by the members – has greatly enhanced the visitors' visual experience at Wall House. Myers Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> grade also toured the Wall House. Mr. Washington Sr. wanted to thank the Commission members Barbara Bartlett, Mary Washington, John Washington Jr., and Dr. Wieckowski for their participation along with him. He also thanked the Students docents Ivy Chen, Julian Morein, Isaac Smuler Schatz and Mark Hoff, CHS coordinator. There were 66 students, 3 teachers and parent chaperons. Mr. Washington Sr. said it was very successful.

The fourth Sunday, the Wall House was open for visitation. Two visitors from Maryland came by and wanted to track the Underground Railroad. The visitors from Maryland will be bringing more visitors in the future.

Mr. Washington shared a Preservation America summary of a textile collection he recently received. There are copies available to read. Mr. Washington said there was a grant proposal done by Karen Karuza in 2011. He said it covers all of the textiles. Mrs. Cohen asked if the textiles brochures were available on the Township website. Mr. Washington said they are on the third floor and some are located in the basement and not on the website.

It was reported that the hours for the Wall House museum still have not been corrected in the Philadelphia Inquirer and the website should be corrected as well to read “open by appointment only and on the fourth Sunday of each month.” The site should have the same information as above.

**6. Staff Report** – Mr. Hinson announced a meeting of Curtis Arboretum Conservation and Landscape Steering Committee was held last month. Ms. Minich reviewed all the information she gathered in regards to maps, designs, boundary lines, future projects and activities for the completion of the master plan for the grounds of Curtis Hall and Arboretum. She presented a draft of the master plan at the last meeting. There will be a meeting again this month on June 22, 2015. There might be only three more meetings left before the master plan can be completed.

Mr. Hinson discussed historic markers. The Commission last discussed markers a year ago and he asked if Commission members wanted to suggest applying for another historic marker in 2016. Applications for the blue and gold signs must be submitted to the Pennsylvania Historic & Museum Commission in the spring. After that, the Commission can apply for the National Register. Mr. Washington Sr. asked if anyone had a property that they wish to be investigated for a historic marker. Mr. McCann said to choose a property for a historic marker, it should be chosen in regards to the history of a person, event or property. Mr. Washington said the Briar Estate is an example of a property that was requested as a historical landmark.

**7. Old Business** – Mr. Esposito spoke on the website address he mentioned last month referring to an email address to contact the Wall House which was incorrect. He said the email address is no longer in use. He contacted the Township Public Information Officer who said she could make an official Township email address for the Wall House and send to the Commission. Mr. Washington asked a Commission member to volunteer to have the Township Wall House email forwarded to their personal email address. Mrs. Cohen said she would accept them.

Mr. Hinson discussed ordering shirts for the Commission but said the logo it is no longer available. The shirts would be worn during a tour and gives a uniform look. Mrs. Cohen suggested getting badges instead of shirts. Ms. Hirsch suggested using magnetic badges. Mr. Washington said he will look into ID badges.

Mr. McCann asked about taking pictures for houses of cultural resource survey. Mr. Washington noted permission is needed from the owners in order to take the photos.

**8. *New Business*** – Mr. Washington asked that an executive committee be formed in case any issues come up over the summer months. The Committee will consist of a Chairman, Vice Chair, Financial Officer, Program /Education Chair and Preservation Person.

Mr. Esposito made a motion, seconded by Dr. Wieckowski and unanimously approved, that an executive Commission be formed for the summer for any matters that might arise.

Mrs. Washington has been working on the filing all Historical Annual reports. She went through them to organize. She is searching the Wall House. She will then contact the Township Public Information Officer see what year is missing. Mrs. Washington asked if anyone has any annual reports not to discard them.

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

**10. *Announcements*** – Mrs. Cohen wanted to commend the person/ people who planted the flowers around the Wall House. Mr. Washington Sr. said they were planted last year by Dr. Wieckowski.

**11. *Good and Welfare*** – Dr. Wieckowski asked for volunteers for a work detail at the Wall House on Saturday, June 13. Mr. Washington wished everyone to have a happy and great summer.

**12. *Adjournment*** - There being no further business, Mr. Washington Sr. asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. McCann made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Dr. Wieckowski.



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Bryan T. Havir  
Township Manager

Submitted by: Kelly Rebitz & Linda Vann

June

11 June 2015

18 June 1903

Building Committee appointed to prepare plans for two building

7 June 1904

Bills for payments includes 2 bicycles \$23.30  
Horseshoeing \$6.

5 June 1906

Geo Elkins gets permission to put a "dust proof" coating" at his expense on Litten Ave (now Ashburn Rd) from Old York Road to Washington Road a preparation that has been successfully used on various roads throughout the country

4 June 1912

Meeting times changed from 3 PM to 2 PM

(OVER)

2 June 1926

Commissioners approved Parks & Playground  
plan to develop tract at Waverly / Belmont  
Aves as a park & playground, including  
building a swimming pool



MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

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

Thursday, June 11, 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			
J. Werkmann			
L. Cohen			
Tom Walsh			
Lois HIRSH			
Timothy Esposito			
James J. McAnn			
B. Bartlett			
M. Washington			



