

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

Members present were: Barbara Bartlett, Ray Burg, Louise Cohen, Tim Esposito, James McCann, John Washington Sr., and Dr. Wieckowski. (Guest: Karen Uhlrich) Staff present was: Brian Hinson, Director of Parks and Recreation. (See attached attendance list).

1. Call to Order – Mr. Washington Sr. called the meeting to order at 7:34 P.M.

2. Acceptance of Minutes – Mr. Washington Sr. asked for a motion to accept the June 11, 2015 meeting minutes. Dr. Wieckowski made a motion to accept the minutes for June 11, 2015; seconded by Mrs. Cohen and unanimously approved.

3. Review of Financial Report – Mr. Esposito reviewed the financial reports. (See attached reports). The Historical Commission report for the Wall House income was \$120.00 for the month of June in donations and \$25 for the Friends of Wall House. Mr. Esposito questioned the \$530.95 transfer included on the report. Mr. Hinson said it was from a transfer to off set expenses. Mr. Washington Sr. noted that the Commission is provided a \$4,000 budget to start the year. Mr. Hinson stated that there is a Capital Account for the Wall House so funds can be transferred as needed for work done at the Wall House. Mr. Esposito questioned the contracted services expenses of \$675.95 which was recorded on the report. Mr. Hinson said the expense was for janitorial services between January - June. The Historical Commission income showed \$500 for local aid which Mr. Hinson reported was the grant funds from the Jenkintown Lyceum. There was a book sold for \$3.00 showing in the report for July and a book for \$3.00 was sold in the month of August. Mr. Esposito also questioned other expenses and will meet with Mr. Hinson to discuss. Mr. Washington Sr. will double check to see why the Commission's bank account is not in an interest bearing account. Mr. Washington Sr. said he will look into the situation with the accounting department.

4. *Committee Reports*

A. Education Committee – Mrs. Cohen announced that the next program will be a lecturer and thinks the lecture should be connected to Cheltenham Township history. She asked if anyone had seen the film documentary about Mr. Julius Rosenwald (a Cheltenham resident long ago). She saw the film at the Ritz Theatre and said it was a very good documentary. Mr. Rosenwald had the opportunity to meet with Booker T. Washington in the south at the Tuskegee Institute. While visiting there he was inspired to help black children in the south who needed education. Mr. Rosenwald later built about 5,300 schools all over the south. Many of the schools are now gone. The National Trust for Historic Preservation is trying to preserve some of the schools that are left. Well known people like Maya Angelo and Henry Lewis just to name a few, attended these schools. Mrs. Cohen asked if there was an interest in trying to get this documentary from the distributor. She stated that it can be used as a fundraiser and will also check to see if there is a shorter version of the film. Mr. Washington Sr. gave her the approval to pursue getting the film for a fund raiser. Mrs. Cohen asked if anyone had any additional ideas or suggestions for doing an event connected with local history.

B. Preservation Committee Report – No Report.

C. Museum Committee Report – Mr. Washington Sr. said he spoke to the Township Public Information Officer about making changes in the weekend notice of the paper and on the internet regarding the museum tour hours of operation.

D. Special Events – To be discussed under new business and Chairman's report.

5. *Chairman's Report* – The museum was open on the 4th Sunday of each month during the summer with two special tours which including six visitors last Sunday, September 8, 2015. The

Garden Club continues to keep the plantings watered and neat. There have been a few adjustments and additions in some of the exhibits.

Mr. Washington Sr. received an invitation to the Pennsylvania Preservation Award Luncheon, but was not able to attend because of a conflict in his schedule. He also received a very nice pack of letters in regards to the two programs sponsored by the Jenkinstown Lyceum. The letters were passed onto the Township Manager.

Mr. Washington Sr. told Mr. Esposito he appreciates his efforts to have the Historical Commission member list updated. Mr. Washington Sr. stated that the current members do not know who some of the members are on the list. He reviewed the list of members. He stated some of the members listed are non contributing members and have not attended a Historical Commission meeting in years. The member list will be updated and reviewed by Mr. Hinson and Mr. Washington Sr. with current members, their telephone numbers and e-mail addresses.

Mr. Washington Sr. asked if the Twinning Committee and Historical Commission will share a table at the Cheltenham Community Harvest Festival.

6. Staff Report – Mr. Hinson announced there will be a Curtis Arboretum Steering Committee Meeting on Monday, September 14th. The meeting will be regarding the final draft of the Master Plan for Curtis Arboretum. Mr. Hinson will give a report at the next Historical Commission meeting.

7. Old Business – Mr. Washington Sr. wore one of his old tour uniform shirts to show what he wears during tours. He said the Historical Commission has previously discussed getting name tags to wear during tours. Mr. Washington Sr. said he found plain metal name tags for \$11.99 plus shipping and the plastic tags are \$12.50 that can be brought locally. These can be worn by members during tours. Student docents will also need tags of that should say volunteer.

Mr. Washington Sr. said Ms. Werkman and Dr. Wieckowski have been communicating about the marker at Washington Lane and Church Road. He said the marker is not in the original location. Mr. Washington Sr. said the original base it sat on is still there and that the marker should be placed back on the base. The residents should be able to read the marker in its original spot. Mr. Washington Sr. said the marker can not be seen where it is located now. He is asking if anyone has any suggestions on how to get the marker in its original place to please let him know because it might be costly to have it moved again. Mrs. Cohen suggested asking for donations on line to get the marker placed back in its original place. Mr. McCann will look into seeing what is needed to get the marker placed back on the base.

8. New Business – Mr. Washington Sr. said the Garden Club would like to decorate the Wall House for the Holidays and have a number of open houses. He said it can be a great fundraising event. They will decorate the first and second floors only. The Garden Club will staff the rooms themselves. The house will be open three Sundays starting December 6 with a preview reception and open December 13, and 20, 2015. Mr. Washington Sr. said; they would like to serve refreshments and have music. Mr. Washington Sr. said there will be six trees that will be decorated with different themes. Mr. Washington Sr. asked for thoughts or proposals on this matter. Dr. Wieckowski said it is a great idea, would be good publicity and very beneficial to the Wall House. Ms. Bartlett asked if the Garden Club will handle the publicity. Mrs. Cohen agreed to the idea and suggested that work be done to organize and fix up areas at the Wall House in November. Mr. Washington Sr. asked Mr. Hinson if an admission or donation can be accepted for the event. Mr. Hinson said yes; either can be accepted. Mr. Washington Sr. asked for a motion regarding this event that will be given by the Garden Club. A motion was made by Mr. Esposito to accept the holiday event at the Wall House sponsored by the Garden Club. Mr. McCann seconded the motion; unanimously approved.

Mr. Washington Sr. received a letter of proposal from a gentleman named James Magaziner who is the president of Fort Washington Historical Society and is in association with a company called Fork Hill Financial. He is a financial planner who wants to have a tour at the Wall House and a private meeting afterwards regarding financial planning. He is willing to pay rent for the use of the Wall House or pay \$10 to the Commission for each person that attends the meeting. He asked for the e-mail address for residents associated with the Historical Commission so that he can invite them to his meeting for financial planning. He is willing to advertise for the program himself. The event is free for those that come to the meeting. Mr. Esposito said he would send information to residents for the financial planner, but will not share the e-mail list. Mr. Hinson said this program would have to be approved through the Township Manager's office. Mrs. Bartlett did not approve of this program. Mrs. Cohen made a motion not to accept this program. Dr. Wieckowski seconded the motion.

Mr. McCann said the Twinning Committee and the Historical Commission will be sharing tables at the Community Harvest Festival on October 17th. The time will be between 12 noon and 4 p.m., Dr. Wieckowski will arrive at 11:30 a.m. and Mr. and Mrs. Washington will arrive after 1 p.m. to help. Dr. Wieckowski will put together a travel kit for the table.

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

10. *Announcements* – Mr. Washington Sr. informed visitor Ms. Karen Uhlrich that she could send a letter to the Township Manager, if she wishes to join the Historical Commission.

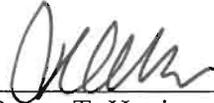
11. *Good and Welfare* – Mr. Washington Sr. gave a report on Ms. Hirsch status. She is at Sunrise Home on Susquehanna Road in Abington, PA. under medical supervision. Since she now lives out of the area from the Township, Mr. Washington Sr. asked that the Commission request to the Board of Commissioners that Ms. Hirsch be made an honorary member of the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission for all her years of service at the Wall House. A

September 10, 2015 7:30 p.m.
Wall House

motion was made by Dr. Wieckowski and seconded by Ms. Bartlett and unanimously approved.

This request will be taken to the Board of Commissioners.

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



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by: Linda J. Vann

Times Chronicle Sept 5 1990
Cheltenham turns festive for village
Tri-Centennial

Cheltenham Village Tri-Centennial celebration has been 300 years in the making. Planning for the celebration took only slightly less long it seems.

Also on Sunday a reception will be held by township officials for the mayor of the village sister city in Cheltenham, England at 9PM at Curtis Hall.

Times Chronicle Sept 12, 1990
Cheltenham's come together. Namesakes meet for tri-centennial

Neither jet lag nor the five-hour time difference dampened the enthusiasm of four visitors from Cheltenham, England as they were whisked around for their first look at their town's U.S. namesake on Friday.

Mayores Anna Bullingham, town clerk and chief executive, Brian Wynn and two councillors, Daphne Pennell and Alistair Cameron. Also in town for the festivities is the Mayor, William Bullingham, who arrived later that day.



MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

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

Thursday, September 10, 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			
Ray Burt			
Tom Wiekowski			
L Cohen			
Jim McCann III			
Timothy Esposito			
Karen Uhlrich	844 Elkins Ave, Elkins Park, PA 19027	816-590-6457	karen.uhlrich@gmail.com
Barbara Bartlett			