

The regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission was held tonight. Members present were: Barbara Bartlett, Louise Cohen, Tim Esposito, Jack Washington, Mary Washington, Joyce Werkman and Dr. Wieckowski. Guest present was: Karen Uhlrich. 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 noted that damage to the way-finding sign at Wall Park was not noted in the October minutes however, it will be added to the minutes for November. Mr. Washington asked for a motion to accept the October 8, 2015 meeting minutes. Tim Esposito made a motion to accept the minutes for October 8, 2015; seconded by Dr. Wieckowski and unanimously approved.

3. Review of Financial Report – Mr. Esposito reviewed the financial reports. (See attached reports). The Historical Commission report showed income for \$9.00 for the month of October for books that were sold and the phone bill was \$90.00. Mr. Esposito said there was \$30 in donations and \$100 from the Friends of Wall House. He also indicated that the contracted services account for the Wall House was \$200.00.

4. Committee Reports

- A. Education Committee – No Report.
- B. Preservation Committee Report – No Report.
- C. Museum Committee – No Report.
- D. Special Events – See item #7.

5. Chairman's Report – Mr. Washington said the Cheltenham Township Harvest Festival was a success and indicated the Historical Commission shared a table with the Old York Road Historical Society. Their table received a good response from the people at the Community Harvest Festival and sold three books. See the financial report for memberships, donations and book sales.

Mr. Washington mentioned that he attended the Board of Commissioner meeting on October 21st when the Old York Road Garden Club received its Community Service Award for their efforts in keeping the Wall House grounds clean and beautiful.

Mr. Washington said he held planning sessions with the Old York Road Garden Club to measure and photograph areas of the Wall House for the upcoming Holiday Open House decorating preparations.

Mr. Washington stated his concerns regarding who has keys and codes to the Wall House. He will review this matter with Mr. Hinson at a later date.

Mr. Washington said the Township workers dropped a tree on the way-finding sign outside the Wall House. He said he still does not know what happened, where the sign went, how it will be replaced or if it will be replaced. Mr. Washington said he has asked several

Township workers questions regarding this and has not received any answers. Mr. Hinson said he will follow up again with the Public Works Department for an answer. Mr. Washington expressed that there was a lot of work put into making the sign and that he would appreciate any help given to solve this matter.

6. Staff Report – No Report.

7. Old Business – Mr. Washington gave an update regarding the Holiday Open House. He said the Garden Club has been holding workshops to make center pieces and floral arrangements. There will be a preview open house party on Sunday, December 6, 2015 from 1 to 5 p.m. There will also be an open house for tours from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, December 13 and 20. He anticipates at least 22 visitors on December 13. Logistics of preparing for, promoting, staffing and running the open house party were discussed.

Mr. Washington said there will be a donation box even if a fee is not charged. Mr. Washington said there will be a raffle. He noted that the Township Manager gave permission to charge an admission since this event is to be used as a fundraiser. Dr. Wieckowski had concerns about an admission fee being charged for the holiday open house. He proposed an alternative. He suggested having a donation box and a poster with the appropriate wording on it requesting a donation. Ms. Werkman suggested a request be made for a donation of \$5.

Dr. Wieckowski motioned to make the holiday open house a free event with a donation box and a suggested donation at the door. Mrs. Washington seconded and unanimously approved.

The Commission was asked to comment on suggested road names for the Ashbourne Meadows development. Suggested names include: Meadow View Court, Eastburn Way, Trillium Lane, Lynford Road, and Elbaberry Circle. After discussion, Mr. Washington asked Dr. Wieckowski to submit a formal letter on behalf of the Commission with at least five other suggestions of road names for the Ashbourne Meadows development.

Mr. Washington had a concern about a car being parked in front of the kitchen window of the Wall House on November 9, 2015 for more than an hour.

Mr. Washington said the Wall House Newsletter is now available for distribution. He thanked Dr. Wieckowski for his work on the newsletter.

8. New Business – Mr. Washington wanted to know if the Committee was interested in continuing to receive the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation Magazine. The subscriptions lowest price amount is \$30 and it comes out three times a year. The next level for the subscription is a \$50 membership to the magazine which gives a free admission visit to a museum along with the subscription.

Dr. Wieckowski made a motion to renew the subscription for \$30; seconded by Ms. Bartlett and unanimously approved.

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

10. Announcements – Ms. Werkman announced that St. Paul’s Church is having a program to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the 13th Amendment. The program will take place on December 5 and 6. Dr. Wieckowski will be one of the speakers for this event. There will also be a speaker at the program giving a lecture on Camp William Penn. There will be a play / re-enactments taking place that will participate in the 10 a.m. morning service. There will be a special concert on Saturday night having with Civil War music. This is a free event. There will be a re-creation in the church basement of a display and exhibition of the Underground Railroad, with actors portraying Harriett Tubman, Sojourner Truth and Lucretia Mott.

11. Good and Welfare – Mr. Hinson suggested having a holiday party after the December 10 Commission meeting. Dr. Wieckowski asked if everyone would bring something. He suggested desserts and beverages.

12. Adjournment - There being no further business, Mrs. Cohen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Werkman and unanimously approved.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by: Linda J. Vann