

The regular meeting of the Historical Commission was held tonight. Members present were:

Steve Banks, David Harrower, Lois Hirsch, James J. McCann III, Heidi Morein, Dorothy Spruill, Jack Washington, Mary Washington, Joyce Werkman and Tom Wieckowski. Staff present was: Bryan T. Havir, Assistant Township Manager. (see attached attendance list).

1. ***Call to Order*** – Chairman Steve Banks called the meeting to order at 7:40 P.M.
2. ***Acceptance of Minutes*** – Mr. Jack Washington made a motion to accept the May 12, 2011 meeting minutes as submitted; seconded by Mrs. Washington and unanimously approved.

### 3. ***Committee Reports***

A. **Education Committee** – Ms. Cohen was not present but did submit a written report to the Chairman Banks (see attached) which he reviewed. Mrs. Hirsch circulated a docent schedule and encouraged volunteers to assist with coverage at the Museum on Sundays for tours.

B. **Preservation Committee Report** – Mr. Harrower noted that PHMC has been hosting public forums for public input to develop the State Historic Preservation Plan for 2012-17. This plan will help the state identify, prioritize and address historic preservation needs over the course of the next five years to protect Pennsylvania's heritage. Similar to the National Trust's poster, "This Site Matters", PHMC developed a poster stating, "This is my History" that could be utilized.

Mr. Harrower also noted that the proposed zoning hearing board application for the Penske Truck Leasing business on Cheltenham and Sycamore Avenues in La Mott has been withdrawn. However, a new zoning appeal application was submitted for an Enterprise franchise. He reported that this item will be reviewed at the next La Mott BHAR meeting.

C. **Museum Committee Report** – Mrs. Spruill offered her report on the following items: Museum Cataloguer progress; Mr. Harrower's assistance with storage solutions for the third

floor and contacts for follow up on the temperature and humidity control in the Archival Room; purchasing pole and chain standards from Mr. Kohn of the Philadelphia Flag Day Association (PFDA) to keep visitors away from displays, such as the cider press; acquisition of a 1721 c antique hall chair; communication from the UK regarding Ashmead and American in Bloom. (see attached report).

Mrs. Spruill asked the Commission to consider approving purchase of the standards. Mrs. Washington made a motion to purchase the set of standards for the cost of \$20.00; seconded by Mr. Harrower and unanimously approved. Mrs. Spruill will obtain an invoice to present to Mr. Havir.

Mrs. Spruill asked the Commission to consider approval for moving expenses and insurance charges to have the c. 1721 chair relocated from Florida to the Wall House. Mr. Washington made a motion to accept the chair and pay the cost of insurance and moving charges in an amount of \$340.00; seconded by Mr. Harrower and unanimously approved.

Mr. Banks noted that a oil painting of a scene of a mill race in Cheltenham Township as well as two plates with facsimiles of the owners of Shilling Bakery 1950 c were donated to the Historical Commission via Commissioner McKeown on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. John Gordon, residents of Cheltenham Village. Mrs. Spruill will acknowledge the donations.

Mrs. Spruill stated that she was contacted by Abington Art Center regarding including the Richard Wall Museum in the Secret Places program [www.visitsecretplaces.org](http://www.visitsecretplaces.org), which features prominent buildings in Eastern Montgomery County such as Arcadia University, Friends of High School Park, Bryn Athyn and Beth Sholom Synagogue. It was the consensus that this would provide positive feedback and help promote and publicize the Richard Wall House. Mr. Washington made a motion to approve participation in the program not to exceed \$100.00;

seconded by Mr. McCann and unanimously approved. Mr. Havir will follow up with the application.

Mrs. Spruill asked what could be done to clear the end of the driveway of weeds.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Havir asked what needed to be done and he would arrange for the Parks Maintenance Superintendent to meet with Mrs. Spruill and Mrs. Washington.

**4. Chairman's Report** – Mr. Banks announced that he received a contact from Pennypacker Mills about a Civil War Road Show, celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War, being hosted in Schwenksville on June 2-3, 2012. The Historical Commission was asked if they wished to have a presence at the event. Discussion ensued and included comments about having Camp William Penn included.

Mr. Banks asked Mrs. Hirsch to update the members on the Historical Commission's Annual Market Day event. Mrs. Hirsch announced that the date for the event is Saturday, September 10, 2011 with a rain date of Sunday, September 11, 2011. Mrs. Hirsch noted that contracts and posters have been mailed out to vendors beginning in June. Vendors for arts and crafts, antiques are welcomed. Mr. Banks noted that there are many tasks to accomplish for the event and that he would be contacting members for assignments.

**5. Staff Report**

A. Mr. Havir stated that the draft Historic Resources Overlay Ordinance has been completed by the Ad Hoc Zoning Committee and reviewed by the Township Solicitor. It is anticipated that the final draft Ordinance will be reviewed by the La Mott and Wyncote BHAR's in July and August. He will e-mail the final draft to all Historical Commission members.

B. Mr. Havir announced that the owner of 1203 Cheltenham Avenue applied for a demolition permit for a one-story stone structure. The Historical Commission considered the application

incomplete, lacking a structural engineer's evaluation report, an estimate to rebuild and an estimate age of the structure. The Commission requested that Mrs. Washington conduct map research to determine the age of the building and document historical importance of the site. Mr. Harrower made a motion to recommend that no demolition permit be issued until the structural engineer's report is submitted and the application is deemed complete; seconded by Mrs. Washington and unanimously approved. Mr. Havar recommended that the demolition permit application be forwarded to Mr. Harrower for his review since there is no Commission meeting until September 8, 2011.

**6. *Old Business***

A. Update on Demolition Permit issued for Heidelberg/Kerlin Farm – Mr. Banks distributed an e-mail update from Mr. Landau (see attached). Mr. Banks noted that there is a new contact who has parties interested in purchasing the seven acre property, restoring the house to a livable private home. Mr. Banks said that there has been a great deal of interest in saving the property but no real offers have been made.

B. In follow up to the discussion regarding the cover for the Commission's event table, a sample of the cover material was provided at the meeting. Discussion ensued that the color of the fabric should be navy or dark blue and the lettering for the name should be gold or yellow in color. Mr. McCann made a motion to add additional artwork to include the Richard Wall House Museum and the Township seal on the table cover at a cost not to exceed \$300.00 complete; seconded by Mr. Washington and unanimously approved. Mr. Havar will report back to the Chairman.

C. Mrs. Washington and Mrs. Spruill recommended Special Wallaby Blue for the vinyl upholstery material for the Carriage House chairs. Mr. Washington made a motion to accept their recommendation; seconded by Mr. Harrower and unanimously approved.

D. Mrs. Washington thanked Mr. Wieckowski who scanned photographs donated by Mrs. Betty Adams of Cheltenham Village to a CD ROM for the Commission's archives. This saved the cost of having the images scanned at Larmon Photo.

E. Mr. Wieckowski donated an autographed copy of his book, Making Marathon, A History of Early Wyncote to the Richard Wall House Museum. The Commission thanked Mr. Wieckowski.

#### **7. *New Business***

A. At 8:00 P.M., a special video presentation entitled, Precious Places, was offered by Ms. Werkman highlighting La Mott Community Gardens and Friends of High School Park. The Commission viewed the video and thanked Ms. Werkman. Ms. Werkman announced that CROHL will receive a NAACP achievement award for their participation in the recent Precious Places video production.

B. Mr. Washington noted that staff docents at Morgan Log House in Towamencin requested a tour of the Richard Wall House Museum in the next couple of weeks and Mr. Washington volunteered to do a tour.

#### **8. *Citizens Forum* - None**

**9. *Adjournment*** - There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Washington, seconded by Mrs. Washington and approved by the Historical Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

June 9, 2011 7:30 p.m.  
Carriage House



David G. Kraynik  
Township Manager

Submitted by: Kathryn McDevitt



MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

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

Thursday, June 9, 2011

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	E.P.		
Heidi Morein	Cheltenham	215 692 2378	waterofleith@aol.com
Mary Washington	E.P.		
Lore H. HIRSCH	E.P.		
JAMES J. McANN JR			
Dave Harrower	Glenside		
Tom Witek	Wynote		
Werkman	Wynote		
Spaulm	Wynote		
D. Speer			

**From:** dccohen1 <dccohen1@juno.com>

**To:** SBanks7132 <SBanks7132@aol.com>; BHavir <BHavir@cheltenham-township.org>

**Subject:** June 9 Historical Commission Meeting

**Date:** Tue, May 31, 2011 2:09 pm

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I cannot attend the next meeting. I have met a new Wyncote resident who seems interested in the work of the Commission and will send him information on the next meeting. His name is Brian Welsh and I will tell him to introduce himself to you if he comes to the meeting and you can judge whether he is a good candidate for the Commission.

#### Education Report

Donald O. Scott presented stories about Cheltenham Township at the lecture in honor of National Preservation Month on Thursday evening, May 12 at Curtis Hall. He presented with photos from his latest book. About 60 people were in attendance. The evening and lecture were well received by all who spoke to me.

The next program will be on Sunday, October 2, from 1 to 5 in the afternoon, during the Best of the Burbs promotion. It will feature tours of the flag exhibit and a talk by someone from the Flag Day Association.

A speaker has been secured for next year's Black History Month Lecture on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2012, at 2:00 P.M. He is William Pickens who will speak on his family's history in Cheltenham.

Both Myers and Wyncote schools came for tours of the Wall House led by our student docents in May. Is there any way we can find out how this was received by the students and teachers? This year there were no extra activities led by us. Was this missed? In the future I recommend that we either hand them an evaluation form or ask how the evaluation can be accomplished with the least amount of effort, I would also like to know if they have suggestions on procedure or content.

Louise Cohen

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<http://www.juno.com/freemail?refcd=JUTAGOUT1FREM0210>

/o=HMC1/ou=Exchange Administrative Group  
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=wallhouse\_wallhouse\_

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**From:** Dorothy Spruill [dls829@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, June 09, 2011 10:47 AM

**To:** DottieSpruill

**Subject:** MUSEUM REPORT

copy

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## MUSEUM REPORT, June 9 2011

- Textiles I have met with Karen as she stated in her report, however I have no idea how to figure the percentages. We have never kept records of the quantity of any item nor grouping. I suggest that it is an educated guess on her part, but she is working.

- Storage David Harrower is giving a great deal of his time and his expertise in mapping out the best method for storage as of now the 3rd floor office will be used for the Military exhibit and the third floor kitchen will be for storage and work space.

- Crowd Supports Jeff Kohn bought support stands and chain at a flea market. We need them in the Colonial bedroom, and in the dining room for an item we will discuss later, and in this room to protect the cider press from further damage. The regular ones which were given to me by Virginia Knauer are in the hundreds of dollars. Jeff will give them to us for what he paid for them, \$20.

- Acquisition We are being offered a chair. The chair is of the 1700s, I have the appraisal papers. It is valued at \$4,000 and was made by a German in Pennsylvania. Winterthur has a chair exactly like it. It is being offered to us since we are a Pennsylvania museum and the main concern was that the owner wanted a good home. They were not interested in a tax write off when they found that we could not give it to them. The agent came and inspected the museum and reported back to Florida where the chair is located. This is the situation. The Shoemakers were German and were living in the house in the 1700s. Also we have no 1700s furniture nor textiles to portray life styles of the inhabitants. It is a hall chair but I would tend to have it roped off with some of the new supports in the 1700s dining room. I called the Cheltenham Township movers and they quoted \$300 for bringing it up from Florida with an addition of \$40 for insurance.

- Cheltenham UK I was contacted by a descendent of the Ashmeade family for some information, mainly about two babies with birth records but no

death records. I turned this task over to Mary Washington. Subsequently I have received an enormous amount of information of passenger lists, birth and death recordings, etc. etc. These items will be invaluable for our archives, This summer we will write a letter thanking her and telling her of our plans. It is all on email, on my computer. I am going to transfer it to the Wall House computer and then I would like to have it transferred to a disc. Interesting enough, I learned among other things that Richard Wall, a mason, was read out of meeting at the last moment even while the ship, the Bristol Factor was loading. Elaine Rothschild could never find him on the passenger list but an English historian was able to do so. In conversing with her via email, she is sending us Cheltenham thyme seeds to grow in our Herb garden, I have contacted the garden club. I heard of Cheltenham UK thyme and asked several people to look for it but it could not be found locally Let us hope that it will grow enough to display for the visitation in August.

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America in Bloom I was called by Dianne Williams one of the coordinators of the affair to discuss the Wall House participation. As of now, the visitors will enter thru the herb garden, enter the Wall House thru the kitchen door and go directly to the second floor To this end I hope that we can afford to hire some one to clear the garden at the head of the driveway.

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## Havir, Bryan

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**From:** Ed Landau [elrla@erols.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 07, 2011 3:34 PM  
**To:** Ellen; Steve; fredmoore1@verizon.net; daveharrower@gmail.com; McKeown, Charles; Havir, Bryan; Dave; Bill; alwayslyon@aol.com; bpransky@ctcdc.org; Mary Lou; Charles@neulight.com  
**Subject:** Bolton-Heidelberg-Kerlin - Looking for a Buyer for the house

Good news for the Bolton-Heidelberg-Kerlin Farm house! We are happy to report that the house (at least, most of it) is still standing, and will be for at least a few more months. We have gotten national recognition from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. They have done a nice article summarizing our situation, which can be seen at <http://www.preservationnation.org/magazine/2011/story-of-the-day/300-year-old-pennsylvania.html> through the end of this week, then will be saved in their archives.

After much effort by our group to convince the owner of the historical importance of this house, he has come to understand its significance, and is offering our preservation group the opportunity to buy the house for a nominal cost. The primary provision is that the buyer commits the resources to repair the house, and return it to an appearance that will be an asset, and anchor, to his future townhouse development plans for the rest of the site. This would entail probably \$100,000+ for roof and floor repairs, and maybe another \$300K (or more, depending on the extent of historic restoration) to finish the house, and make it ready for occupancy.

This can be accomplished either through establishing a fund to receive donations and oversee the work, or by finding a buyer who would like to take this on as a private venture, in which case the local preservation group would provide some support. To this end, we are asking everyone to pass this information along to anyone who may have interest in this new option.

The unfortunate news is that parts of the house and the site have already been demolished. On the morning of Monday, April 11, the demolition contractor began demolition of parts of the house and site, without prior warning. By the end of the day, the 1898 addition and the Victorian wrap-around porch were down. During that same day, a bulldozer began plowing through the site, taking out the 12' diameter (10' deep) stone cistern and the historic root cellar adjacent to the 1898 addition. They began demolition of the classic sunken stone greenhouses near Oak Lane Road, and ran over unprotected tree roots on many of the historic trees. And while they were at it, they began cutting down trees without a permit. Fortunately our group alerted the township, who immediately placed a stop order on the work, primarily due to grading without a permit, and for the damage that was being done to the trees.

We don't know the future of the rest of the site, but we have been given the opportunity to save the most historic portions of the house. The c.1700 (Bolton), 1790 (Jones) and 1850 (Haines) portions of the house still remain, which include over 5100 sq ft of floor space, in addition to full, clean basements (1800± sq ft) under all portions of the house. You can see recent photos of the house at <http://heidelbergkerlinfarm.files.wordpress.com/2011/06/bolton-heidelberg-kerlin-may-2011.pdf> (try to visualize it without the plywood protection)

With portions of the roof missing, the house continues to deteriorate, so our immediate need continues to be to protect the house from the ravages of the weather, but someone needs to take ownership before this can happen.

Please forward this to anyone you know who is involved in construction, real estate, or otherwise interested in historic houses.

Thanks,  
Ed Landau, RLA