

The regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township **HISTORICAL COMMISSION** for January 2020 was held tonight. Members present: Barbara Bartlett, Steve Conrad, Timothy Esposito, Donald C. Jones, Geoffrey Shulik, Karen Shulik, Jack Washington, Sr., Mary Washington, Joyce Werkman, Tom Wieckowski, and guest: Patricia Miller. Staff present: Brian Hinson, Director of Parks and Recreation (attendance list attached).

1. *Call to Order* – Mr. Washington, Sr. called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.
2. *Acceptance of Minutes* – Mr. Jones made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 12, 2019 Historical Commission meeting; seconded by Dr. Wieckowski and unanimously approved.
3. *Review of Financial Report* – Mr. Esposito reviewed the financial reports showing income and expenses for both the Historical Commission and the Wall House for the month of December 2019 (see attached).

4. *Committee Reports*

- A. Education Committee – The Committee discussed preparation for the upcoming February Program.
- B. Preservation Committee – Mr. Washington, Sr. announced a demolition application was forwarded to the Commission for its review of the dwelling located at 218 S. Easton Road, Glenside, Pa. Mr. Conrad said the property does not have historical significance and recommended the demolition. Mr. Washington, Sr. asked that pictures be taken of the property before it is demolished.

Action: Upon motion Mr. Conrad recommended approval of the demolition permit for 218 S. Easton Road, Glenside, Pa.; seconded by Dr. Wieckowski and unanimously approved.
- C. Museum Committee – Mr. Esposito shared that the new laptop is up and running and ready for the Commission is to start using it for cataloging. He also mentioned that many paper clippings and files that were put together by former Commission member Mr. David Harrower were left on the old computer as historical resources. Mr. Esposito said everything on the computer is cleaned up, backed up, organized and usable.

The Commission discussed efforts to locate missing watercolor paintings. Dr. Wieckowski said Mr. Esposito has done an outstanding job addressing the situation and that nothing else can be done to determine what happened to the watercolors. He recommended turning the matter over to the Township.

Action: Upon motion of Dr. Wieckowski the Committee agreed to turn the matter of the missing water color paintings over to the Township for further investigation; seconded by Mr. Shulik and unanimously approved.

Mr. Esposito said volunteers are needed for a tour of the Wall House on January 26, 2020. Dr. Wieckowski said he will assist with the tour that day. Mr. Esposito said if anyone else would like to assist with tours to see the link to volunteer on the website.

- D. Special Events – None.

5. *Chairman's Report*

- A. Visitation at the Holiday Open House was low. Less than 90 people signed the guest book on Friday. (Please refer to Mrs. Washington's comments attached to last month's minutes). Mr. Washington, Sr. said he thought a three-day, one weekend event worked better than holding the event on separate weekends. He said he would like to see more publicity in 2020. Mrs. Washington added that it would be good for the Garden Club to be responsible for getting the program more publicized.
- B. Police and park security have noted some concerns at the Wall House, such as lights being left on.
- C. Mrs. Washington reported that Mr. McCann has the stereoscope cards and case at the Cheltenham Fire Company and is in the process of installing the doors, applying oil to the cabinet and dusting off the stereoscope cards. Once he has completed the work he will make arrangements to bring it to the Wall House. Mr. Washington, Sr. asked Mr. McCann to write an article for the spring newsletter regarding the case and stereoscope cards.
- D. A copy of the latest PennDOT correspondence regarding the intersection improvements at Church Road and Greenwood Avenue is available, if members of the Commission are interested in reviewing it.
- E. Mr. Washington, Sr. congratulated Mrs. Washington, Dr. Wieckowski, Mr. Esposito and himself for perfect attendance at all 10 Commission meetings in 2019 and asked that members make a commitment to attending meetings, as attendance has been sparse.

6. *Staff Report* – None.

7. *Old Business*

- A. Mr. Conrad said he sent photographs depicting some type of residue build up on the exposed ceiling beams in the kitchen of the Wall House to Township Staff last month and asked for a status report. Dr. Wieckowski said the Township Maintenance department has addressed it and the beams have been cleaned.
- B. Mr. Washington, Sr. said he would like to appoint a nominating Committee as a whole for next month's meeting.

8. *New Business*

The Commission discussed a request from the Police Department for historical photographs and/or blueprints for a property in Melrose Park to aid in a police investigation. While the Historical Commission does not have information, the Old York Road Historical Society (OYRHS) might. Dr. Wieckowski is researching the OYRHS records.

9. *Moment in History* – Mrs. Washington provided a written report (see attached).


10. *Announcements*

- A. Mr. Washington, Sr. asked that the Commission help promote an upcoming program sponsored by the Citizens for the Restoration of Historical La Mott on Sunday, February 23, 2020 (see attached).

- B. Mrs. Washington announced that lottery tickets are available through the Twinning Committee (contact Mr. McCann) if anyone is interested. She said the tickets cost \$20 and are good for the whole year.

11. *Good and Welfare* – None.

12. *Adjournment* – There being no further business, Mr. Esposito made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m., seconded by Mr. Conrad, and unanimously approved.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by: Linda J. Vann



Citizens for the Restoration of Historical La Mott (CROHL)

Invite you to come and hear

Dr. Thomas Wieckowski
Author, historian, educator

Speaking about

“The Ridley/Fox Shooting and Aftermath: An American Tragedy”



This unfortunate incident, which happened at Camp William, affected the lives of two families for generations. This presentation will review current research on the circumstances of the shooting and the devastating impact on Ridley and the extended Fox family of La Mott.

Kerry Bryan in attendance as Lucretia Mott

**Joe Becton, Antoine Watts and Crystal Kemp, musicians
and USCT re-enactors, will bring Civil War era music.**

Date: Sunday, February 23, 2020 Time 3:00 PM

Location: La Mott Community Center

7420 Sycamore Ave., La Mott, PA 19027

This is a free event. Donations are welcome.

For more information or in case of severe weather conditions,

call: 215 885-2258; email: pt@usct.org



Moments In History

9 January 2020

Public Spirit

19 January 1895

Opontz

The trolley made its appearance last Friday for the first in our streets.

Our popular miller, Joseph Bosler, took in the inaugural ceremonies at Harrisburg on Tuesday.

Joseph Bosler entertained the Farmers' Club at his residence, "The Dry," last week.

The Times Chronicle

12 January 1907

Opontz Occurrences

The dedication of the Jay Cooke Memorial will take place on Wednesday evening, January 16, at 8 P.M. Invitations to attend this function have been sent to many prominent people. It is expected that the building will be presented to the parish by Mrs. Jay Cooke, Jr. and accepted by the rector, Rev. J. Thompson Cole.



MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

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

Thursday, January 9, 2020

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			
John Korman			
John Korman			
Tom Weller			
B. Bartlett			
Donald C. Swos			
Mary Washington			
Timothy Espisto			
Karen Shulick			
Geoffrey Shulick			
Olivia Shulick			

