

The regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township **HISTORICAL COMMISSION** for January 13, 2022 was held tonight. Members present: Stephen Conrad, Herschel Elias, Timothy Esposito, Donald Jones, James McCann III, Liza Meiris, Geoff Shulik, Karen Shulik, Mary Washington, Joyce Werkman, and Thomas Wieckowski. Guests present: Dimitri Diagne and Kelly Eidell. Staff present: Allen Brown, Property Maintenance Supervisor.

1. **Call to Order** – Mr. Wieckowski called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. **Acceptance of Minutes** – Mr. Conrad moved that the minutes of the December 9, 2021 meeting be approved. Mr. Esposito seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.
3. **Review of Financial Report** – None.
4. **Committee Reports**
 - A. **Education** –
 1. February Lecture – Mr. Jones said that the Black History Month Program on February 10, 2022 will be held virtually at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Cheryl Gooch will present the lecture which is titled ‘Patriotism and Our Shared History.’ The May lecture will be presented by Dr. Thomas Wieckowski.
 - B. **Preservation** – Mr. Wieckowski told the Commission that the original fireplace from Kerlin Farm was located by Allen Brown, in the basement of the Township Administration Building. Carmen Reitano, a retired Township employee, rescued the fireplace after the Kerlin Farm building had been demolished. Mr. Brown offered to assist the Historical Commission restore the fireplace.
Mr. Esposito announced that he had received a collection of carved bricks from chimneys of local homes. He wants to donate them to the Museum.
 - C. **Museum** – None.
5. **Chairman’s Report**
 - A. **Departure of Mr. Hinson from the Township and Liaison Role** – Mr. Wieckowski talked about Brian Hinson and the many ways he helped the Historical Commission over the years.
Action: Mr. Esposito made a motion to pass a resolution in honor of Mr. Hinson. Mr. Jones seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
 - B. **Report on Open House for January amidst Township Closure** – Mr. Wieckowski informed the committee that since the Township facilities are closed temporarily, the Open Houses for January and February will have to be cancelled.
 - C. **Schedule of Open House Staffing for Winter and Spring** – Mr. Wieckowski said that since the Open houses are cancelled, the scheduling would be on hold for now. Mr. Esposito suggested that in addition to creating a schedule for staffing for the Open Houses, they should create schedules for yard and house maintenance. Mr. Wieckowski asked Mr. Esposito to create a draft of the schedules.
 - D. **Rowland Community Center Shut Down** – Mr. Wieckowski asked the Commission for volunteers to assist with removing items from the temporarily closed building.
6. **Staff Report** – None.
7. **Old Business** – Mr. McCann had the torn flag repaired and will bring it back to the Richard Wall House once the building opens back up again.
8. **New Business** –
 - A. **Installation of Additional Display Cases and Exhibits in Wall House Parlor** – Mr. Wieckowski suggested that the Commission build a half wall in the parlor so they can place two exhibits back to back. He recommended that the one display case could be a revolving display to showcase items that don’t have a permanent display, and can be updated seasonally. He asked for suggestions for temporary exhibits.

- B. Gray Rock Creek Proposal – Mr. Wieckowski introduced Dimitri Diagne to the Commission. He explained that Mr. Diagne had submitted a proposal to name a waterway that runs along his property after the gray boulders in the creek. Because the Commission did not have enough time to review the proposal, and since the February meeting will be brief, the proposal will be added to the March Agenda for discussion.
- C. Mary Washington’s Historic House – Mrs. Washington shared that her home is on the Montgomery County Historical Inventory and is listed on the State Archaeological Site. Mrs. Washington is working to preserve the part of her house that originally belonged to the Toby Leech estate and includes the original slave’s quarters which date back to the 1690’s.
9. ***Moment in History*** – Mrs. Washington shared several moments in history.
10. ***Good and Welfare*** – None.
11. ***Adjournment*** – Mrs. Washington made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Conrad seconded. The motion was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.



Robert Zienkowski
Township Manager

Submitted by: Kelly Rebitz

I move the following resolution to honor Mr. Brian Hinson and further move that the following letter be forwarded to Mr. Hinson by the chair of the Historical Commission.

Noting the resignation of Mr. Brian Hinson from his position with Cheltenham Township and in particular as Township liaison to the Historical Commission, The Historical Commission recognizes the valuable contributions of Mr. Hinson, thanks him for his service, and wishes him well in all his future endeavors.

Dear Brian,

At the regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission held on January 13, 2022 the Commission noted your recent resignation from Cheltenham Township.

To mark the occasion, the Commission unanimously passed a resolution expressing the members' gratitude for your dedicated and efficient service to the Commission. The resolution was duly recorded in the minutes of the Commission. Further the Commission wants to express to you their best wishes for every success in your future endeavors. The motion finally directed me to forward the thanks and good wishes of the Commission to you.

I can tell you that we all will miss your valuable advice and dedicated participation in the work of the Historical Commission, and in particular, during the reorganization of the Richard Wall House Museum and preparation for our Grand Reopening. The success of that effort is due in good part to your willingness to assist and be of service to the Commission during that effort.

Best regards,

Thomas Wieckowski
Chair
Cheltenham Township historical Commission