

The regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township **HISTORICAL COMMISSION** for September 2019 was held tonight. Members present: Steve Conrad, Timothy Esposito, Donald C. Jones, Geoffrey Shulik, Karen Shulik, Jack Washington, Sr., Mary Washington, Tom Wieckowski, Joyce Werkman and guest: Brooke Welsh. 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 7:30 p.m.
2. ***Acceptance of Minutes*** – Mr. Washington, Sr. asked for a motion to accept the June 13, 2019 meeting minutes. Ms. Shulik made a motion to accept the minutes; seconded by Mr. Shulik and unanimously approved.

Mr. Washington, Sr. welcomed guest Brooke Welsh to tonight's meeting.

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 June, July and August 2019 (see attached). He also noted that a new television was purchased for the Wall House tours.

4. ***Committee Reports***

- A. **Education Committee** – Ms. Shulik announced she is stepping down from her position on the Education Committee.
- B. **Preservation Committee** – No Report.
- C. **Museum Committee** – Mr. Washington, Sr. said additions have been made to the museum and the Commission is trying to build on Dr. Wieckowski's "Bosler" information. He said labels need to be made for the case at the Wall House to help people understand the display. Mr. Washington, Sr. said he will make a list of what labels are needed.

Mr. Esposito said he would like to rearrange the Carriage House and also change the displays. Mr. Washington, Sr. said certain items cannot be moved but supported Mr. Esposito in rearranging the Carriage House. He also requested that Mr. Esposito complete rearranging items before the Holiday Open House Tours.

- D. **Special Events** – Dr. Wieckowski asked the Commission if they were interested in having a spring tour. The Commission discussed options for various locations and will continue the discussion at a later date.

5. ***Chairman's Report***

- A. The Friends of the Richard Wall House received two new members: Ms. Marianne Miller and Ms. Harriett Richards. Ms. Richards became a benefactor of the Friends of Richard Wall House, with her donation of \$100. Dr. Wieckowski said Ms. Richards is a Shoemaker descendent who recently toured the Wall House.

- B. Mr. Washington, Sr. talked about a letter that was sent a few years ago by Dr. Wieckowski through email to the Township and the Commission about the derelict building at 1012 Greenwood Avenue in Wyncote, PA. Dr. Wieckowski said he still has concerns about this property because it is still vacant and being vandalized. He also noted that the property has been issued numerous citations. Dr. Wieckowski said he will have a column in the upcoming fall /winter newsletter for the preservation report regarding the property at 1012 Greenwood Avenue.
- C. The St. Paul's Friends Group is interested in getting a historical marker for Jay Cooke at the Mausoleum by submitting a proposal to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). The Township Manager, Mr. Chambrés and other principle people are working on this proposal. Mr. Chambrés is working on the background information needed for the proposal. He also shared that Dr. Wieckowski has volunteered to assist with the text and wording that will be on the marker. Ms. Welsh and Dr. Wieckowski said they have both met descendants of Jay Cooke who also might be interested in this proposal. (See the attached meeting minutes).
- D. Ms. Marie Schneider, president of the Old York Road Garden Club has submitted a request to hold the Holiday Open House Tours again this year. Mr. Washington, Sr. and the Commission discussed concerns about communication between the Garden Club, Commission, and Township, along with scheduling conflicts.

Action: Mrs. Washington made a motion to approve the Holiday Open House on Friday, December 6, 2019 take place between the hours of 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; seconded by Dr. Wieckowski and unanimously approved.

Mr. Hinson said the Garden Club asked if they could put up a sign a week before advertising the Holiday Open House. The Commission agreed.

6. *Staff Report*

- A. Mr. Hinson shared that the Elkins Estate was sold and a land development application has been submitted.

7. *Old Business*

- A. Mr. Conrad provided an update on the proposed rezoning of 20 W. Waverly Road, Glenside from R-3 Residential to C-1 Commercial. The Board of Commissioners approved the zoning map amendment on August 14, 2019. As a condition of approval, the developer has placed a restrictive covenant on the property agreeing not to demolish the property and retain it as a residential use. Mr. Conrad said he also got an oral and informal commitment from the Ward Commissioner; the Historical Commission would have the ability to go inside the house and research it to see what is there of historic nature when the property transfer is complete.

The Commission voted to recognize Mr. Conrad for his advocacy and perseverance to equitably resolve the Waverly Road zoning situation.

B. Mr. Washington, Sr. discussed the 50th anniversary of the Historical Commission. He said the Commission was formed May of 1969 and that the first formal Historical Commission meeting took place on May 27, 1969. The Commission needs to put together something so the Board of Commissioners can give a certificate of congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the Historical Commission. Ms. Werkman suggested celebrating the 50th anniversary in May of 2020. Dr. Wieckowski and Mr. Washington, Sr. stressed that it will require a lot of work and effort on the part of the Commission members to make the 50th anniversary commemoration a success. Dr. Wieckowski asked that a specific date be suggested by next month's meeting in October.

Action: Mr. Conrad made a motion to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Historical Commission in May of 2020; seconded by Dr. Wieckowski and unanimously approved.

C. Mr. Washington, Sr. mentioned that the Camp William Penn program will take place on September 21, 2019. Ms. Werkman asked that everyone to spread the word about the program.

8. *New Business*

A. Mr. Washington, Sr. shared a preliminary archival list completed by the summer intern. He said he would like to transfer fragile archives and nonusable items to the Old York Road Historical Society where they have proper archival storage. The archives will be more accessible to the public for research purposes; more so than at the Wall House. Dr. Wieckowski put together a draft and a printed motion for the archiving items of historical interest to be sent to Old York Road Historical Society.

Action: Dr. Wieckowski made a motion that the Old York Road Historical Society is better equipped and more experienced in the archiving of items of local historical interest, and the inventory of documentary holdings has been completed, he moved that the Historical Commission donate its holdings, maps, documents, and ephemera, represented by the inventory and those items that may be discovered upon further investigation, to the Old York Road Historical Society at this time. The time and date of the physical transfer of the items can be determined by the Commission pending any interest in using items for display or event purposes this program year, but no later than June 1, 2020; seconded by Mr. Conrad and unanimously approved.

Ms. Werkman objected to sending most of the recently archived items to the Old York Road Historical Society. She felt that there are many items on the list that the Commission should keep at the Wall House for future displays. She also suggested items be displayed at the Wall House before being transferred to the Old York Road Historical Society. Mr. Washington, Sr. suggested a motion be made to add an addendum that states that the Commission can borrow back the archive items of historical interest when needed.

Action: A motion was made to add an addendum that states that the Commission can borrow back the archive items of historical interest when needed; seconded by Mr. Conrad and unanimously approved.

- B. Mr. Washington, Sr. said Dr. Wieckowski is working on the fall/winter newsletter. He asked if anyone needs to make submissions to get it to Dr. Wieckowski soon.
- C. Mr. Washington, Sr. said he has an application for membership for the American Alliance of Museums. He said the Commission can now become a membership for whatever the Commission can afford. This was not offered by the American Alliance of Museums in the past. He asked for a motion to participate with a membership fee of \$35.

Action: Dr. Wieckowski made a motion to accept the membership for American Alliance of Museums at a fee of \$35; seconded by Mr. Conrad and unanimously approved.

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

10. **Announcements** – Mr. and Mrs. Washington recently visited a program for three British soldiers who lost their lives during the battle of Germantown given by the American Revolutionary Museum. There will be a new exhibit at the museum on September 28, 2019.

Mr. Conrad said volunteers are needed to sign up for the next Sunday Wall House open house.

11. **Good and Welfare** – Ms. Shulik announced she is expecting.

12. **Adjournment** – There being no further business, Mr. Conrad made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m., seconded by Dr. Wieckowski, and unanimously approved.



Bryan T. Havar
Township Manager

Submitted by: Linda J. Vann

Minutes of a Meeting

On September 5, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. a meeting was held in the Boardroom of the Cheltenham Township Administration Building.

Present at the meeting were Township Manager, Bryan Havir, and members of an ad hoc committee from the non-profit organization, "Friends of St. Paul's Elkins Park." Also in attendance was Mr. Jack Washington, president of the Cheltenham Historic Commission. A member of the Old York Road Historical Society who was also a member of the "Friends" was present representing the Society in the absence of their president who was out-of-state.

The meeting was requested by Bill Chambrés Acting Director of the ad hoc committee. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and solicit information about a proposal to submit to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) and application for an Historical Marker for Jay Cooke.

Mr. Havir has been involved in the submission of approximately ten (10) applications to the PHMC of which the majority have been approved and his experience in these submissions is being sought.

The meeting was opened with a review of the plot plan of St. Paul's Church on which the Marker, if approved, would eventually be placed. The map was provided by the offices of Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds, Ms. Jeanne Sorg. (Norristown). Mr. Havir, explained the process by which the PHMC would consider in placing the location of a Marker. It was decided a more up to date map would be sought in order to more closely review possible location sites on the property. Mr. Edward Landau, who provided a map of the Jay Cooke Mausoleum area, accepted the ask of researching a more recent map of the entire church property. He will be assisted by Reverend Reid, the church rector.

A brief discussion was held regarding the informational content on the Marker that would be submitted as part of the application. Mr. Havir explained that in one of the applications he submitted and that was approved, multiple changes in the wording were made before the final acceptance.

Mr. Chambrés, asked Mr. Thomas Wieckowski, an established historical writer, if he would accept the task of the writing to be submitted in the application for placement on the Marker. He accepted and will work with Mr. Havir.

A discussion followed regarding the cemetery areas adjacent to the mausoleum and the many famous persons buried there. This triggered a discussion of the overall historic importance of the area in addition to Jay Cooke.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Havir stated that he knew a ranking member of the PHMC and that he had her visit Cheltenham previously in relationship to a Marker application and that he would contact her and request that she visit the site for the purpose of evaluating the entire site.

It was agreed that until that evaluation took place the application would be placed on hold.

Mr. Washington was asked to report on this meeting to the Cheltenham Historical Commission at their meeting on September 12th.

Mr. Havir will make note of this meeting to the Cheltenham Board of Commissioners at their next meeting and will provide a letter of support when requested

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Bill Chambrés
Acting Ad Hoc Committee Director

p.s. Jennifer L. Daggs (Senator Haywood)
Megan Othersen Gorman (Representative McCarter)
Jeanne Sorg, Recorder of Deeds

Moment In History

12 September 2019

From Commissioners Records

Sept 16, 1901 An ordinance divides the Township into 5 election districts for the election of Commissioners (instead of Township wide elections)

Sept 6, 1910 Water Co. gives tarp bldg free water up to 50,000 gallons
Ordinance to collect license tax on hacks, coaches, carriages, etc.

Sept 9, 1921 In any development of tracts of land in the Twp. subdivisions into lots to be a minimum of 50 ft in width & 125 ft in depth.



MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

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

Thursday, September 12, 2019

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			
J. Werkinan			
Timothy Esposito			
Geo Frey Shulik			
Karen Shulik			
DONALD C. JONES			
Brooke Welsh			
Tom Wozell			
Steve Conrad			
Mary Washington			