

The regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township **HISTORICAL COMMISSION** for September 2019 was held tonight. Members present: Steve Conrad, Timothy Esposito, Donald C. Jones, Jack Washington, Sr., Mary Washington, Tom Wieckowski, Joyce Werkman, Stephen Workman and guests: Patricia Miller and 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*** – Mrs. Washington asked that a correction be made on page 4 of the September 12, 2019 meeting minutes: Mr. and Mrs. Washington, Sr. attended a ceremony at the De Bennezille burial ground and at the Northwood cemetery for British officers killed during the Battle of Germantown. It was sponsored by the British Officers Club of Philadelphia. Mr. Esposito made a motion to accept the minutes; seconded by Ms. Werkman 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 September 2019 (see attached).
4. ***Committee Reports***
 - A. **Education Committee** – Mr. Workman will develop a program for Black History month in February 2020.
 - B. **Preservation Committee** – Dr. Wieckowski said demolition started on Laverock Hill on Willow Grove Avenue off Church Road last spring. There is an article in the Newsletter about the estate. Mr. Washington, Sr. said The Old York Road Historical Society has acquired some artifacts from Laverock Hill and asked that tiles from the former Curtis Estate be moved to a special space in the Wall House.
 - C. **Museum Committee** – Mr. Washington, Sr. said the big display table of the Mill collection was expanded. He said Dr. Wieckowski made large labels for the display table.
 - D. **Special Events** – Mr. Washington, Sr. stated that the Holiday Open House tours will be 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. on Friday, December 6, Saturday, December 7, and Sunday, December 8 from 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Volunteers from the Commission are needed for coverage.
5. ***Chairman's Report***
 - A. The Camp William Penn and Historical La Mott Day program was outstanding in every respect. Ms. Werkman did a fantastic job organizing the program. Ms. Werkman thanked all the Commission members that volunteered.
 - B. Mr. Washington, Sr. thanked Dr. Wieckowski for a nice job on the Fall Wall Paper Newsletter, which was distributed at the meeting.
 - C. The Garden Club visited the Wall House twice to do room selections for the upcoming Holiday Open House tours. Flyers will be provided by Old York Road Garden Club.
 - D. Ms. Werkman has a community service person working under her supervision gardening at the drive entrance. Ms. Werkman needs assistance in other areas that will require the use of power

tools. She said she has someone who will clean out the iris garden. Dr. Wieckowski and Mr. Esposito said they will assist in helping with the garden on Saturday, October 19.

- E. Mr. Washington, Sr. said he met with Ms. Welsh regarding a proposal to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Historical Commission with a cocktail party and fundraising event at Curtis Hall. She suggested the Commission work with the Friends of Curtis Arboretum to develop a program. Mr. Washington, Sr. asked that the Commission provide any comments on the proposal by next month.

6. Staff Report – No Report.

7. Old Business

- A. Mr. Washington, Sr. asked Mr. Esposito about the computer at the Wall House. Mr. Esposito said the computer is in working condition, but it is old and outdated. Mr. Esposito said the Commission can get a grant for less than \$2,500 in Pennsylvania to get a new laptop and other equipment that might be needed. Mr. Hinson will follow up with the Township's grant writer.

8. New Business

- A. Mr. Washington, Sr. shared a letter he received from PennDOT regarding the Church Road and Greenwood Avenue intersection improvement project. The letter states the project will not have any effect on Curtis Hall and Arboretum. He said if anyone has questions and concerns about the project he can forward them to PennDOT and Harrisburg by November 4, 2019. Ms. Welsh shared her concerns from residents that there will be flooding in the Wyncote Historical District from this project.
- B. Dr. Wieckowski said the hand-painted Historic Wall House sign at the entrance of the Wall House sign is faded and has some wood rot and suggested getting a new sign or refurbishing it. Mr. Hinson said it can be taken to the sign shop for review to see if it can be refinished.
- C. Mrs. Washington found the Resolution of when the Historical Commission started and read it to the Commission members (see attached).

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

10. Announcements – Mr. Washington, Sr. shared that the Museum of American Revolution has an exhibit called *Cost of Revolution: The life and death of an Irish Soldier* that will be on exhibit until March 2020.

11. Good and Welfare – None.

12. Adjournment – There being no further business, Mr. Workman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m., seconded by Mr. Esposito, and unanimously approved.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by: Linda J. Vann

Moment In History

10 October 2019

Times Chronicle 14 October 1905

Wyncote Whispers

Miss Abby McClure is teaching French in the Chelton Hills School on Mather Avenue

Times Chronicle Saturday 20 October 1912

Ogontz School Is Sold for \$500,000
Former Estate of Jay Cooke Bought By
Miss A. A. Sutherland

New Owner is Proprietress and Principal
of Ogontz School for Girls, which
Occupies Ground

October 6, 1959 at the Company
Meeting of the Ogontz Fire Company
a new member was voted into
full membership. That person was
John F. Washington, better known as
Jack. As of this past Sunday "Jack"
is starting his sixty first year as
a volunteer firefighter.

Submitted by
Mary Washington

The first meeting of the newly established Cheltenham Township Historical Commission was held on May 27, 1969. The fiftieth anniversary was in May 2019. It was commemorated at the May 2019 Preservation meeting at Glenside Hall.

The picture in the 2019-2020 calendar is in Aug 2019. It should have been in last years calendar for May 2019

A Resolution

of the Board of Commissioners of Cheltenham Township

Whereas, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, with deep admiration and respect, salutes the **HISTORICAL COMMISSION** on the occasion of its 35th Anniversary; and

Whereas, Established by the Board of Commissioners on May 20, 1969, the **HISTORICAL COMMISSION** was created to help preserve the Township's rich heritage. The Commission emphasized local history, including developing a Township history book, while actively participating in the national bicentennial in 1976. Likewise, the Commission played important roles in many community milestones, including other anniversary celebrations and twinning visits; and

Whereas, Since 1980, the **HISTORICAL COMMISSION** has focused on the Richard Wall House, which dates back to an original founder of the community. After helping to supervise two restorations, the Commission transformed the property into a house museum that features furnishings and exhibits that cover an over 200-year span of the community's past. The **HISTORICAL COMMISSION** opens the house to the public every Sunday and offers special tours for Township fourth-graders every year to reveal the ordinary lives of the countless generations who shaped and developed the Township and the nation to this day; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP, duly convened in regular session this Fifteenth Day of June, A.D., 2004, does hereby officially recognize the **HISTORICAL COMMISSION** for its lasting contributions to both preserving Township history and educating the public about it. It is further directed that this Resolution be spread in full upon the minutes of this meeting and that a copy thereof be conveyed to representatives of the Historical Commission.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, HARVEY PORTNER, President of the BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP, have hereunto set my hands and caused the Seal of the Township of Cheltenham to be made a part thereof. DONE AT ELKINS PARK, PENNSYLVANIA, in the year of the Township of Cheltenham, the one hundred and fifth.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP**

By: 

President

Attest: 

Township Manager and Secretary



MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

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

Thursday, October 10, 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)
Mary Washington			
Workman			
Jack Washington			
DONALD C. LEBES			
Timothy Evans			
Chris Brink-Keller			
P. Battista			
STEPHEN WORKMAN			
Tom Wadell			
Brooke Welsh			