

The regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township **HISTORICAL COMMISSION** for November 2019 was held tonight. Members present: Barbara Bartlett, Steve Conrad, Timothy Esposito, Donald C. Jones, Geoffrey Shulik, Karen Shulik, Jack Washington, Sr., Mary Washington, Tom Wieckowski, Joyce Werkman and guests: Emma Connolly, Patricia Miller, Brooke Welsh, Amanda Young and Charles J. Young, 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 1 of the October 10, 2019 meeting minutes: Mr. and Mrs. Washington, Sr. attended a ceremony at the (correct spelling) “De Benneville” 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 as corrected; seconded by Mrs. Washington 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 October 2019 (see attached).

4. *Committee Reports*

- A. Education Committee –Mrs. Werkman is looking into a speaker for the February 2020 Black History Month program.
- B. Preservation Committee – Mr. Washington, Sr. said the masonry of the arch at Arcadia University has been deemed to be hazardous and needs to be removed. The University has hired contractors who will remove and catalog the stones so they can be rebuilt in the future when funding becomes available.

Mr. Washington, Sr. received a demolition proposal for 7425 Old York Road. It is a storage building that does not have historic significance.

Mr. Hinson said he received a demolition request for 2831 West Cheltenham Avenue today. Mr. Conrad said he reviewed the email and looked at the property. He said it was likely built in the 1920s and does not appear to have any historical significance. Dr. Wieckowski said he also took a look and agrees with Mr. Conrad.

Action: Mr. Conrad made a motion to approve the demolition of the property at 2831 West Cheltenham Avenue; seconded by Dr. Wieckowski and unanimously approved.

- C. Museum Committee – Mr. Esposito said two 19th century watercolors donated in 2011 seem to be missing. Mr. Esposito said he will continue to look for the watercolors and encourage the whole Commission to help in the search.

Mr. Esposito asked for volunteers to help rearrange the display cases and straighten up the Carriage House on Saturday, November 16, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. He wants to make the display area more welcoming and organized for visitors.

- D. Special Events – None.

5. *Chairman’s Report*

- A. Mr. Washington and Mrs. Washington hosted a regional meeting for the Welcome Society at the Wall House, a Welcome Society designated house. The Welcome Society generously donated \$2,000. Mr. McCann also received a cash donation after giving a tour of the Shovel Shop.

- B. Commission members should check to make sure nothing falls or breaks during Wall House tours and that the doors are locked when they complete the tour.
- C. An improvement and repair wish list for the Wall House was submitted to the Township for the 2020 budget. Mr. Washington, Sr. said one of his requests was for repairs at the springhouse and Carriage House.
- D. A questor group requested a tour of the Wall House May 18, 2020, and a second group has also requested a tour in 2020.
- E. A Cheltenham High School student and teacher tour of the Wall House is scheduled for Sunday, November 17.
- F. The Garden Club will be decorating between December 2 and 6 to prepare for their Open House on Friday, December 6. Mr. Washington, Sr. solicited volunteers to assist the Garden Club.

6. **Staff Report** – Mr. Hinson said flyers for the Holiday Open House will be available by Monday, November 18 and will be available for pick up at the Parks and Recreation office for distribution by Commission members.

7. **Old Business**

- A. Mr. Washington, Sr. asked if there was an update for the Historical Commission 50th anniversary celebration. Ms. Welsh had no report but said there is progress.
- B. Mr. Washington, Sr. said a Commission member needs to provide coverage during the Holiday Open House tours. Mr. Esposito said he sent out a link through email so Commission members can sign up to do tours.
- C. Dr. Wieckowski discussed the archiving of items to be sent to the Old York Road Historical Society. The Board of Commissioners approved turning over items of archival nature to the Old York Road Historical Society for preservation, with an agreement that the Historical Commission can borrow items back if needed and that all photographic materials be scanned first. Mr. Washington, Sr. suggested a meeting with the Township Manager, Mr. Rowland and Dr. Wieckowski on how to better handle the scanning of the documents.

Action: Upon motion of Dr. Wieckowski; seconded by Mr. Conrad, and unanimously approved the Commission authorized the Chairman and appropriate Commission members confer with the Township on the transfer of the archives to the Old York Road Historical Society and scanning and storing photographs of the items, as specified by the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Conrad asked if there is a grant funding available for a new computer for the Commission, or in the absence of grant funding, if the Township had a spare computer the Commission could use. Mr. Hinson said there is no funding available at the moment and that he would see if the Township has a spare computer available.

8. **New Business**

- A. The Commission discussed having a holiday party following its December meeting.

Action: Mr. Esposito made a motion to have a holiday party at the Wall House following its December meeting; seconded by Mr. Conrad and unanimously approved.

- B. The Commission was offered a donation of redware, a type of pottery that dates back to the 1920s. Mr. Washington said the Commission cannot accept any more artifacts, unless it has clearance from the Township Manager. The donor is willing to donate the items, which the Commission can sell at the Wall House Museum.
- C. Dr. Wieckowski said that due to the holidays, he will not be able to staff the Wall House for its 4th Sunday tour on December 22.

Action: Dr. Wieckowski made a motion not to open the Wall House for tours on the 4th Sunday in December and it will be declared a holiday closing; seconded by Mr. Conrad and unanimously approved.

- D. Mr. Young provided an update of St. Paul's Museum. The Church will begin rehabilitating the old rectory, which dates back to 1868. The first floor will be used as a museum and the second and third floors will be used as a residence. The Church plans to raise \$150,000 for the rehabilitation and has received a financial commitment from a banking institution. Mr. Conrad asked Mr. Young to let the Commission know when the project goes before the Zoning Hearing Board so it can lend its support.

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

10. **Announcements** – Mr. Esposito announced that Mrs. Washington erected a sign at the elementary school that says “Washington’s Crossing” in honor of her 43 years of service as a crossing guard there. He also passed around a picture of Mrs. Washington and the sign erected in her name.

Dr. Wieckowski spoke of the recent fire in Wyncote on Mellon and Clements Roads. Mellon was a property that was built on the estate during the gilded age. He wondered if the correct name should have been Mellor after Thomas Mellor, a banker.

Mr. Washington, Sr. shared that Church and Old York Road is looking good with the new pavers and lamp posts and commended the Township for the work being done.

11. **Good and Welfare** – None.

12. **Adjournment** – There being no further business, Mr. Conrad made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m., seconded by Dr. Wieckowski, and unanimously approved.



Bryan T. Haver
Township Manager

Submitted by: Linda J. Vann

Moments In History 14 November 2019

From Commissioners Minutes

Nov 6, 1901

Ordinance adopted to permit Keystone State Telephone and Telegraph Co. to erect and maintain a telephone line into Cheltenham Township provide free service to all said phone over their systems in Montgomery and Phila Counties.

November 7, 1905

Sharpless Ave accepted as public road
Neighbors complain about the nuisance caused by a dancing school at Tyson's house on Church Road

November 6, 1923

Ordinance passed outlining responsibility of property owners to construct, maintain & keep up footpaths, curbs & gutters, including that all henceforth to be constructed or concrete (to give uniformity) curved curbs at street corner. No covered gutters allowed





MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

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

Thursday, November 14, 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)
Barbara Bartlett			
J. McKean			
Karen Shulik			
Geoff Shulik			
Pat Wade-Muller			
Timothy Esposito			
Steve Conrad			
Charles J. Young			
Donald C. Jones			
J. Walsh			
Amanda Young			

