

**APPROVED EAST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
June 17, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was conducted virtually via ZOOM.

Jeff Dore, Chair, convened the meeting at the new time, 7:00 PM

ATTENDING: Peter Spengeman, Jeff Dore, Nancy Dore, Ian Scott, Sylvia Baker, Zach Barner and Brittany Carosello - EW Township Planning and Development, Scott Lambert -EW Township Chair, Board of Supervisors

GUESTS:; Edwin Tietjen, Owner, 29 Restaurant; Harry Pettyjohn and Karl Buettner; Bertha Jackmon and Pastor April Martin, Mt.Zion AME Church, Devon

DISCUSSION AND NEW BUSINESS:

1. It was announced that Bill Shipley has moved out of the Township and therefore can no longer serve on the Commission. We thank Bill for his time and service over the years.
2. Edwin Tietjen, Owner of the 29 Restaurant(,Historical Resource # , ) discussed plans to upgrade his restaurantby making improvements to the deck and balcony and adding a pergola and garden wall. The footprint of the new deck will be the same as exists today. The Commission unanimously approved his improvements.

OLD BUSINESS

1. A lengthy discussion of many aspects of historical resource #108,Ebenezer AME Church,was held with the two representatives from the AME Church diocese, Pastor April Martin and Bertha Jackman, as well as with the owner and contractor,. Karl Buettner and Harry Pettyjohn, of the proposed development next to it.
  - The contractor and owner have worked out an arrangement with the church to maintain the greenery on the property, and keep it cut and prevent vegetation from overtaking the gravestones. Mr. Buettner anticipated that this would continue for 18 to 24 months. The AME bishop granted permission for the Devon church to work towards rehabilitation and development of the property.
  - Concern about drainage issueswas brought up and Zach agreed to look into what the Township could do about it, including consulting the Engineer.
  - While Mr. Pettyjohn was willing to do some fence repair he did not feel he could cut trees down if they were right next to the church. Zach agreed also to check with the Township on this matter as well. There was concern about the rails in the fence being rotted out. It

was mentioned that any large machinery would need to take care not to break or disrupt the gravestones.

- Peter raised the question as to whether the Commission had considered the need for a Historic Impact Study due to the housing development falling within 200 feet of the church , as was in Section 200-58(B) of the Township Ordinance and recollected there had been discussion and concernat a previous meeting about this fact. After a discussion, which included some input from the Church representatives, it was determined by the Commission not to request an impact study. Nevertheless, there is a strong need for historical research into the church especially due to the possibility of future funds being granted for renovation. Peter agreed to contact the County Historical liaison to obtain more information on grants
  - It was decided that Peter would be the contact person for the AME representatives.
2. Gunkle Mill- Jeff outlined the stage of the project and how we were moving forward. Scott Lambert confirmed the current funds which had been approved. The wheel will be 16 feet in diameter and four feet wide at the buckets. The Wheelwheel Manf. Company is currently manufacturing the mill wheel components. Our primary contractor Ben Hassett continues oversight and preparations for field construction.. The members all expressed satisfaction that we are moving forward.

Next meeting will be held on July 15, 2020.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Spengeman, Recorder