

East Whiteland Township Historical Commission

EAST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 17, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom, and the meeting was convened by Jeff Dore, chair, by 7:00 PM

STAFF ATTENDING: Zach Barner and Brittany Carosello, Township Planning;
MEMBERS ATTENDING- Jeff Dore, Nancy Dore, Peter Spengeman, Sylvia Baker, Mark Keilbaugh, Terri Schatz. PROSPECTIVE MEMBER: Nicholas Groch.

Members not present: Kurt Ulrich, Ian Scott.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Minutes from the January 20, 2021, submitted by Nancy, were approved by the Commission.
2. Township Devel. staff updates-
 - a. Friends Cemetery/Bishop tube site- It was clarified that the Contractor wished to collaborate on a sign/plaque, and that the Commission would be coming up with language.
 - b. Lapp Road/ Morehall house and springhouse ruin(not on list). Zach inquired about specific dates that members may be available in the future to see the ruin and noted that owners want pre-scheduling.
 - c. Linden Hall- State Farm is leasing the office. The Commission discussed the proposed sign for the development and where it may be placed, as well as the protective railing for the side of the building.
 - d. School District- There will be discussions between the Township and school district regarding the buildings. It is not totally clear what the School District is planning.

OLD BUSINESS:

3. Mark and the online Newsletter- Mark discussed next Newsletter which he'd like to get out by April 1. Overall there was discussion about focusing on one historic property or event on each Newsletter. Commission recommended areas of focus being Battle of the Clouds, Flat Road Cemetery and Frazer Diner(in future) ,General Warren Inn, Loch Aerie, and Percival Frazer/naming of the town.
4. Gunkle Mill- Jeff confirmed that the contract for the Civil work , wheel well and sump is complete, and predicts summertime construction
5. Bacton Hill PMHC SIGN application- It was clarified that the Commission was focusing on the history of the Bacton Hill community instead of the church (due to events rather than places being more significant) . Peter raised a question regarding the knowledge base we have on the history of this community currently, and whether there is sufficient amount and significant themes to effect a successful application. Terri is confident that this will not be a problem. Others were offered opportunity to contribute.
6. Ebenezer AME Church- Nicholas Groch introduced himself and has applied to join the Commission. Nick is an Architect who resides in a historic EW property , and has a strong interest in the AME Church. Commission members welcomed him and his interest. He has collected together associates and contractors who are willing to donate their work pro bono and stated that he is planning to take them out to the site in the coming week. He hopes to move promptly and complete work in April. Terri volunteered to go with them to the church. Nick intends to remove trees, make the site structurally sound and safe, cap the walls, etc. The Commission discussed their excitement regarding his plans and also reviewed the need for gravestone mapping, and the possibility of employing Ground Penetrating Radar. As the AME Diocese, represented by the Devon AME Church, owns the site , they must approve activities there. Peter will reach out to the Church representatives to let them know.

The meeting concluded at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Spengeman, Recorder