

East Whiteland Township Historical Commission

EAST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MINUTES of

March 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. PROSPECTIVE MEMBER: Nicholas Groch.

GUESTS: Great Valley School District- David Schraeder, Architect; Chris Jensen, Civil Engineer; Chuck Peterson, Business Affairs Director.

Ebenezer AME Church- Bertha Jackmon, Historian and April Martin, Minister, and Jason Hermann, Archaeologist from U of Pennsylvania. Members not present: Kurt Ulrich, Ian Scott, Terri Schatz.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Minutes from the February 17, 2021 meeting were approved by the Commission.
2. Historic Resource #170-The East Whiteland Consolidated School. The GV School district representatives traced district history and discussed their plans to build a Grade 5 and 6 Center because of the need for increased student capacity . They stated that it would require either demolition or significant modification of the WPA depression era core school (a class 2 resource) which currently houses the school administration. They have looked at plans to maintain the

front façade of the building and did not believe they could adaptively reuse the entire 1939 building. The Historical Commission requested that the school district consider an alternative design that retains and incorporates the existing building into their design. . Members voted unanimously in favor of the completion of a historic impact study by the district, which is required when there a demolition, either whole or in part.

3. Township Devel. staff updates- Zach indicated he had no new information on the St. Gobain project at 20 Moores Road. Two dates were shared with Zach for visits to the Lapp Road/Morehall Road site. Members will need to sign a form to go there.

OLD BUSINESS:

4. Mark discussed the March newsletter which will focus on the Battle of the Clouds and Duffy's Cut. He asked for comments from the Commission by March 24
5. Gunkle Mill- Jeff confirmed that the contract for the Civil work , wheel well and sump is complete, and wheel will be built in the summer.
6. Ebenezer AME Church-Jason Hermann, Archaeologist from Penn attended and presented information about ground penetrating radar and other means to locate traces of those buried there as well as gravestones. The equipment has not yet arrived, and indicated nothing would likely happen until the Fall. Penn Students would be those working on the project. Dr. Hermann indicated he hoped to build 3D models of the site as well. He said he would like to go out to the site as he had not been there for some time. The Commission offered to meet him there or arrange for him to come at his convenience.
The Diocese representatives said they have been supportive of the use of these technologies for the Ebenezer church. Pastor Martin asked about the Developer and if anything has been done to repair the fence. It was reported that they had not, and that the realtor did not respond to an email sent by Peter(which was copied to the church as well).

Nick Groch reported that his engineer looked at the site, and reported that they could take down some trees, but that there was a limit to heavy machinery that could be employed to the site. A tree specialist will take care of smaller trees, but trees inside the structure were a challenge. They are working out a Hold Harmless clause and will be prioritizing the shorter term work. Jeff indicated the HC will be taking only a consultative role as regards the work being done by Nick's group.

The meeting concluded at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Spengeman, Recorder

Sent from my iPhone