

EAST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

July 20, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was conducted in-person with masking optional, and at the Township building. It was convened by Jeff Dore, Chair, at 7:05 PM

MEMBERS ATTENDING- Jeff Dore, Nancy Dore, Sylvia Baker, Nicholas Groch, Rueben Garrett, Peter Spengeman, Mark Keilbaugh,

EW STAFF ATTENDING- Zach Barner.

Guests: Casey Brady-Gold, Toll Brothers.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Minutes of June 15, 2022– The minutes taken by Nancy Dore were approved.
2. Richardson House- Historical Resource #82- @ the formerly 99 Church Road Now #1 Sweetwater Way. Zach Barner emailed township documents regarding proposed changes to the stone retaining wall and gate pillars for road safety purposes. He felt that this proposal from the traffic dept. of the township should be reviewed by the commission. Toll Bros., the developer of Great Valley Crossing, the community in which the Richardson House is located has been asked to assist in the changes. Casey Brady-Gold was present from Toll Bros. The traffic issue identified by the Township is that the wall and pillars obstruct the sightlines of vehicles turning left onto Church Road from Sweetwater Way. There was extensive discussion and belief that the wall and pillars were representative of the history of the house and should not be removed in any way. Ultimately Zach shared his view, after close review of documents, that the wall was not the issue but rather the pillars. Different ideas to save the pillars with minimal disruption were discussed including moving them slightly in current location to get them out of the sightline. Other comments were made inquiring why Toll Bros./permitting process had not resolved this issue during construction and whether the small number of cars coming out of Sweetwater Way

warranted such a major change. The Commission recommended that the pillars be moved, if necessary, only slightly to get them out of the sightline and that the move retain the visual and functional look currently present. As the gate (the home owner had contacted the Commission over a year ago inquiring about the missing gate) was not to be found, it was hoped that perhaps a substitute gate could someday be installed. The home owner, who is the responsible party, was not present, so the next step would be to contact them about the issue and the review by the historical commission.. Casey from Toll Bros was in agreement with the process.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Ebenezer church (plaque , building stabilization, fence)The wording for the plaque is waiting on some final research. Peter and Mark agreed to get to the historical society, and the Devon AME church. Nick is to contact Rycon Construction Co., who has not responded for some time, to further stabilize the structure. Part of one side wall has crumbled. Nick is concerned that vibrations from a truck nearby is jeopardizing the stone structure and requests that the township engineer be contacted. Another discussion about the broken down fence designed to protect it needs replacement. Financial solutions to replace the fence were not yet present despite the need. Nick estimated a \$10,000 job. Peter suggested that previous fixit operations by commission members were successful and that these should be continued when possible.
2. Historical Commission Quarterly Newsletter- Mark presented one text change to Malin Hall description regarding Washington's activity at the site. Commission agreed to Mark's estimate of \$232 for printing of the Newsletter to display in Jeff's nicely constructed display case in the lobby. Mark is looking for more stories for the Newsletter, and Peter suggested we seek out little known historical resources and develop narratives on them.

3. Gunkle's Mill (ADA , maintenance) Nick met with Township officials.
 - Pavers and/or crushed stone cannot be used. Stamped concrete is acceptable. A slab or flagstone base for parking are two options as well. Brick is not in keeping with the historical structure, as it is a stone building.
 - There will be two wooden ramps for visitors in wheelchairs – one at basement level and one at first floor with access to ramps slab or crushed stone as needed. The first floor ramp pathway will be along the building. Nick and Jeff agreed to look into contractors.
 - The need to assess and identify the electrical wiring at the mill was identified

4. Other issues- Jeff and Nancy are unavailable for normal September meeting date which has been moved to Tuesday, September 27 at 7 so they can be.

The meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Spengeman, Secretary