

EAST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

September 27, 2022

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

MEMBERS ATTENDING- Sylvia Baker, Peter Spengeman, Mark Keilbaugh, and Nick Groch. Reuben did not attend due to illness.

EW STAFF ATTENDING- Brittany Carosello.

GUEST: Lucius Hamilton from St. Gobain Co.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Minutes of August, 2022– The minutes were reviewed and approved.
2. HR #81 Ashlawn farmhouse. Lucious Hamilton from St. Gobain reported that work is beginning on this house, which is considerably deteriorated due to water damage. Work is beginning now. The Commission discussed some of the external requirements that must be followed and Mr. Hamilton agreed and will return back to the Commission regarding colors for siding. He also reported that no work is being pursued on the barn down the road, which was the subject of commission meetings in the past.
3. HR #89- Abraham/Phillips Davis house (Valley Creek Park House)- Jeff reported that this Township owned house is no longer rented and has been vacant for over a year. The Commission was asked by the Township to be part of meetings regarding future adaptive reuse, whether public or private. Different options were discussed generally. The members agreed to be part of this planning effort.
4. Peter raised issue of Mannix barn and how we are protecting a property that has no public access nor adaptive reuse possible. This led to a more general discussion of properties on our listing that are out of public view and access.

STAFF REPORTS

1. Mill Lane Station- Historic Resource #130 42-4-67 – Brittany advised the members that the 4 home development proposed next to this resource was placed on hold by the builder.
2. Time Capsule-Emails had gone out as a time capsule was found in the 1955 annex wall of the Great Valley School building recently demolished to build the new 6/7 Center. Brittany sought assistance from the Commission as to procedures, as some of the objects were degraded. No notice of the placement of this artifact in the wall was available. It was strongly recommended that the Chester County Historical Society and the Historical Preservation Office in the county be consulted and Brittany agreed to follow up.
3. Budget – Brittany suggested that the Committee work on the budget for 2023 as it will be due soon. Jeff and the members agreed to do so.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Newsletter and Chester County Heritage Day– Mark reported that he manned a table, shared newsletters, and sold several Township history books at the Paoli Battlefield site for Chester Cty Heritage day on September 17. In addition to reenactments, time was spent learning from other township boards. Mark provided information about “sleeper “ rocks that were experimental manufactured stone railroad ties from the 1830s. There are quite a few scattered throughout the township. Peter withdrew his suggestion to encourage township residents to “drop off” any sleeper rocks as they are not scarce.
2. Ebenezer church (plaque , building stabilization, fence)The wording for the plaque is waiting on some final research and Jeff wishes to accomplish this by end of October do we can discuss wording. Nick was unable to report back on the Contractor about the stabilization of the church ruin as they have not returned calls to date. There was some discussion about the new builder who had taken over construction and trying to obligate them to finish the work that previous builder had promised.

3. Gunkle's Mill (ADA , maintenance) Specifications for the Mill contracted maintenance work are being prepared. Nick has agreed to do the proposed ADA specs. that the township wishes. Ben's electrician will focus on the wheel and electrical pump.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Spengeman, Secretary