

EAST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

October 19, 2022

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

MEMBERS ATTENDING- Peter Spengeman, Nancy and Jeff Dore, and Nick Groch. Reuben did not attend due to illness.

EW STAFF ATTENDING- Zach Barner ,Director of Planning.

NEW BUSINESS and STAFF REPORTS

1. Minutes of September 25, 2022– The minutes were reviewed and approved.
2. Budget – Jeff reviewed the proposed budget for next year , which is the same dollar request.
3. Zach reported that Clews and Strawbridges will be sold and rezoned. Plan is for apartments to be built. This may affect Historical Resource _____.

OLD BUSINESS

1. HR #89- Abraham/Phillips Davis house (Valley Creek Park House)- 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. Jeff and township officials met with a chef who is interested in opening a French restaurant in the building. He would be willing to preserve key historic features such as a walk-in fireplace , beehive oven, etc. An issue with parking would still need to be resolved. The structure would be greatly modified internally as needed for a commercial restaurant. It is reported that at least one supervisor is very enthusiastic about this option.
2. Ebenezer AME Church- Mark, who was not present, had sent around possible wording for the plaque at the church site. Peter again expressed a

desire to do more research, and acknowledged he was late in doing so. One issue had to do with the circumstances behind transfer of the title of the land in 1832 from James Malin. Nick indicated the contractor is willing to come out and do stabilization work the weekend after Thanksgiving. Zach is speaking to the new builder to see if they can work on the fencing around the church.

3. 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. Jeff received the actual time capsule inside one slightly fat regular business envelope and turned it over to Zach. We are still trying to locate the curator at the History Center.
4. 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.
5. Gunkle's Mill (ADA , maintenance) - The current repair list includes both front and back lights. Some of the outlets are bad and need to be replaced. Gunkle Mill's capital request for 2023 is \$125,000. Jeff and Nick will be meeting regarding the ADA plan on October 29.
6. Newsletter-Mark wishes to do a story on the Valley Creek House, in light of recent developments

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Spengeman, Secretary