

**WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
February 8, 2021**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Julie Bauer, Joe McCormick, John Prendergast, Jonathan Martin, John Kabli, Roberta Eckman

**TOWNSHIP STAFF:** Justin Smiley, Township Planner  
Ali Cleveland, Community Development Coordinator  
Phil Yocum, Historic Consultant, Commonwealth Heritage Group  
Candice Strawley, Commonwealth Heritage Group  
Joshua Anderson, Supervisor

**I. Call to Order** – the meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the meeting was held virtually, via Zoom.

**II. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**III. New Business**

- 1. Applicant: 1410 Spackman Lane  
Address: 1410 Spackman Lane  
Historic Site: within 300 ft. of #145 (Class II) former Grove Methodist Parsonage  
Request: Approval to construct a new garage**

Mr. Smiley provided an overview of the project to construct a two-car garage with a paved driveway and apron. While the project is within 300 feet of historic site #145, the former Grove Methodist Parsonage, it will not be visible from the former parsonage due to the sloping topography and existing trees. Mr. Yocum agreed that the proposed garage will have no adverse effect on the historic resource. He added that the garage may be seen from the historic site in winter when the leaves are off the trees but felt it would have no serious impact.

Applicant Alex Knapp said the proposed garage will appear as an extension of the existing house, constructed in the same style, with the same type of siding, and a connecting roof. Ms. Eckman asked if the two existing sheds on the property will remain. Mr. Knapp said they were there when he purchased the property and will remain.

**Motion: to recommend approval for the proposed garage at 1410 Spackman Lane.**

**Vote: Passed 6-0 (McCormick/Eckman)**

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes for January 11, 2021**

Before taking a vote on approval of the minutes, Mr. Martin asked how the Commission can be assured that their concerns regarding the preservation of the Barn will be adhered to; particularly that any rebuild of the barnyard will be in keeping with the historical fabric of the Barn and that ruins will be kept in perpetuity. Mr. Smiley said such language is included in the revisions to the Amendment to Declaration of Condominium which will be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors on February 24. Mr. Smiley then showed a red-lined version of the Amendment pointing out the language added to the document as a result of the Commission's motion. Mr. Martin did not feel that the Commission's concerns were spelled out fully in the revisions. Mr. Smiley explained that all concerns must be referenced in the motion and not just the general discussion of the Commission. Going forward, the Commission will review all discussion points and decide collectively what specifics to include in future motions before taking an official vote.

**Motion: To approve the minutes of January 11, 2021  
(Kabli/McCormick)**

**Vote: Passed, 5-0-1 (Eckman abstained)**

#### **V. Historical Commission Concerns**

Mr. McCormick reported that the property at 545 W. Boot Road, the original of which is a log cabin, has recently sold. He expects that the new owners will be coming before the Commission in the future as the historic home needs a lot of work.

The property at 244 N. Whitford Road is under contract after being on the market for over a year. Mr. Smiley said this site will also be coming before the Commission as the owners wish to renovate and build a guest house on the property.

Ms. Strawley provided an update on the historical survey inventory project. She showed a sample survey form and noted that she was a little more than half way done with 100+ properties completed. The survey form includes all categories required by PHMC as well as a topographical map and an aerial image. The form also contains an archeological description, history of the site, and criteria for significance. The completed inventory will be digitally available to the public. Mr. Anderson will provide information in the future on publishing sites that could print copies when requested. After discussion of the form, it was decided to add categories for revision dates and previous historic site numbers.

There was discussion on how to update the inventory as changes are made to the various properties with concern expressed for changing technology that can make existing formats obsolete. Ms. Strawley said presently the pdf documents can be edited, but no one knows what technology will be in use 10 years from now. Mr. Smiley said the Planning Department compiles an annual report of all land activity within the Township. He will present the Historical Commission activity portion of that report to the Commission on an annual basis for their review. Changes to the inventory as well as changing technology can be reviewed at that time.

**VI. TOWNSHIP UPDATE:**

**1. Historical Awards Update**

Mr. Smiley reported that all awardees have responded to the notification letters. He said Williams Cabins was especially appreciative of the award. There was discussion regarding what property name to use on the plaques – contemporary name, formerly known as name, original builder name, and historic site number were all discussed. The Commission decided to table the matter until the March meeting.

**2. Diane Snyder Documents**

Mr. Smiley advised that Diane Snyder has several boxes of historical information that she would like to pass on. Some of the material will require transcription of hand-written records and sorting to determine duplicates, etc. Ms. Bauer and Mr. McCormick volunteered to help. Mr. Anderson will send an e-mail to Ms. Snyder and copy Ms. Bauer, Mr. McCormick, and Mr. Smiley to get more information and see if there is a time when the documents could be viewed to determine the scope of the project.

**3. High School Intern**

Mr. Smiley advised that the Township has a high school intern who is currently sorting through files, artifacts, etc. in the second floor storage room. He expected to have a list by the March meeting for the Commission to review to decide what should be kept.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. (Eckman/McCormick)**

**Vote: Passed, 6-0**

Recording Secretary,

Justin Smiley, AICP  
Township Planner

