

**WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
February 10, 2020**

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

**TOWNSHIP STAFF:** Justin Smiley, Township Planner  
Candace Strawley, Historic Consultant, Commonwealth Heritage Group  
Joshua Anderson, Board Liaison

**I. Call to Order** – the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**III. Old Business**

**1. WWT Historic Resource Survey Update**

Ms. Jeannine Speirs of the Chester County Planning Commission and Grant Monitor for the Historic Resource Survey project was in attendance. Ms. Strawley provided a list of all of the categories of information that can be collected for each resource. Categories marked in red are required by the PA State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO). The remaining categories will provide additional information to provide a fuller picture of each resource. Not all categories will be completed/available for all resources. The list of categories needs to be finalized before data can be collected.

The members reviewed and discussed the various categories. Referencing outbuildings, Mr. Kabli asked if there will be a separate record for them or will they be listed as part of the primary resource. Ms. Strawley explained that each outbuilding will have a similar number (decimal) linking it to the primary resource.

Ms. Strawley explained community landmarks as a flex category for resources of local historic significance that perhaps don't rise to the level of National Registry eligibility.

The owner category will reflect the current owner's name, but owners of historic significance can be added. While owners change over time, Mr. Smiley explained that the information will be integrated into the GIS system and updated on a weekly basis by the County.

Ms. Strawley said it was difficult to build a drop-down category that encompasses all of the window varieties, but she said there will be a description section where she will record window information.

Final survey results can be exported to an excel database, and ultimately there will be a pdf format consisting of at least two pages for each resource. The results will also be part of the GIS database.

Information will be collected via the Collector app for ArcGIS. Mr. Smiley then showed a video of how the Collector app works.

To ensure that no resources are missed, Ms. Strawley said she will be using historic maps (at least 50 years old) as well as historic aerials. All existing history will be integrated into the form, but there are no plans to conduct additional historic research on the properties.

A hard copy book will not be published, but the information will be available electronically.

The Commission members were in agreement with the categories proposed for the survey.

Mr. Smiley will send the members a draft of the letter to be sent to property owners. The letter will explain about the survey and advise of Ms. Strawley's presence at their property. She will generally stay within public rights-of-way, but may need to go onto a property if the view is blocked by trees, etc. Mr. Smiley will check with the Police Chief regarding this.

Ms. Strawley said the immediate next step will be to call PHMC/SHPO to make sure that the database being set up will mesh with their system and required information. Following that, she will begin populating the database with the existing information currently available for each property.

Once the survey gets underway, Ms. Strawley will meet with the Commission (perhaps in April) to provide a sample form and a desktop presentation of ArcGIS and Collector.

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes for January 13, 2020**

**Motion: To approve the minutes of January 13, 2020, as presented.  
(Eckman/McCormick)**

**Vote: Passed, 6-0**

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

Ms. Eckman reported that the Historic Commission Fund has a current balance of approximately \$47,000 consisting of the \$35,000 estate bequest and fees paid in-lieu-of historic impact studies.

Mr. Kabli requested that two items be placed on agendas ongoing until resolved; the condition of the Thomas Mill and the condition and/or replacement of dying trees along the Route 30 corridor. Mr. Smiley explained that developments approved prior to the mid-1990's did not have Landscaping Restrictive Covenants. As such, the Township cannot require these property owners to replace dying trees, but it can encourage them to do so.

Mr. McCormick advised that he has information for establishing a 501c3 non-profit corporation for Friends of Thomas Mill. This will enable collection of funds to begin study and repairs to the Mill. It will also allow provide greater opportunity for state and county grants. Becoming a Certified Local Government will also increase the grants that the Township could be eligible for.

#### **Township Update/Announcements**

The Chester County Historic Preservation Network (CCHPN) will be holding its Spring Workshop on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Strawley is now the representative for CCHPN.

Mr. Smiley announced that there will be a Meet and Greet with Leaders of the Heritage Organizations and Historical Commissions of Chester County on February 26 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Marshalton Inn.

A meeting has been scheduled with historic consultants to visit the interior of the Arrandale Barn to check the structural integrity and review the engineering report. Mr. Smiley estimated the proposed amendment to the Condominium Agreement would be ready for the March or April Historic Commission meeting.

Mr. Anderson advised that the artist commissioned to paint murals at the newly-renovated Exton Train Station is seeking input from the community on local history topics that could be depicted as murals. Suggestions included the Guernsey Cow, Drive-in Theater, Walkertown, and local area transportation.

Mr. Anderson noted that the developer of the Lochiel Farm project was looking for help on what to include on interpretive signage/historic marker. Mr. McCormick volunteered to review the booklet and make a recommendation.

Mr. Smiley advised that the Ship Road Couplet project was moving slowly due to coordination among the two developers (Wawa and NVR Homes) and the property owner (Laborer's Training). He also gave a brief update on a recent meeting with the owners of the Exton Square Mall.

Ms. Eckman suggested that a letter be sent to the owners of the old Wicks Ski Shop for the wonderful job they did redeveloping the site. The redevelopment of the old Malvern Bank was also noted as being well done.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion: To adjourn the meeting. (McCormick/Pendergast)**

**Vote: Passed, 6-0**

Recording Secretary,

  
Justin Smiley, AICP  
Township Planner