

Westtown Township Historical Commission Meeting Minutes Thursday, 25 July, 2013

In attendance: Dave Walter, Bob Reidenbach, and Brian Giunta. Dan Campbell arrived late.

Patrick McDonough was on vacation.

Dave Walter called the meeting to order at 6:03pm. Dave made a motion to approve the minutes of May 30. The motion was approved. There was no meeting in June.

I. Old Business

A. Camp Elder Historical Marker Dedication

The wording for the cast iron marker was approved on July 9, and will be delivered in August. The Brandywine Civil War Roundtable has raised more than enough money to cover the cost of the marker and the dedication ceremony. Mark Gross will install the marker when it arrives.

Dave reviewed the dedication ceremony schedule for Saturday, September 7. The Rustin High School band will lead the procession of re-enactors and spectators from Oakbourne Mansion to Trellis Lane. Dave is hoping to get the Police to block off S. Concord and Oakbourne Roads.

Dave is trying to get a local printer to create a dedication pamphlet for free, and is also working on publicizing the event. Brian recommended signs on either side of the railroad bridge. He will follow up on that.

B. Westtown School Tour

Mary Brooks confirmed Sunday, October 13 from 1:30 – 3pm for a historical tour of the campus for Westtown residents. The tour will be by reservation only.

C. Historic Properties Project

Pam typed up the file labels, and updated the historic homes inventory spreadsheet to include current owners and phone numbers. Information and/or photographs of approximately half of the 98 homes or structures built before the 20th century are in the Township files. An individual file folder will be created for each property and all information on the property assembled in the folder.

Dave found letters from 1987 in the files that included an authorization to photograph the property, an owner questionnaire, and a cover letter that could be updated and sent out to owners of the historical properties. Bob volunteered to update the letter. Brian suggested we could also put the list of historic properties by parcel number and age and post them on the website. As we receive the owner approvals and additional content (photos, etc.) we could add material to the website, which might encourage others to participate.

II. New Business

A. Arcadia Publishing contract for a “Westtown” Images of America Book

Dave mentioned that he also went through the Westtown newspaper articles on file at the Chester County Historical Society. He provided a summary of the subjects and articles he found there.

He contacted the Abby Henry, trade publisher of the Images of America Book, who was excited to hear that someone might be interested in writing a Westtown edition. The publisher doesn't charge the author anything. Books cost \$22 and authors get 8%. Dave asked the members if they were interested in pursuing this project, but also wondered whether they have enough content. The book format requires 180 pictures. Brian thought it would be a good idea, if we have enough material. Another concern is reproduction fees and copyright issues.

B. Subject for next quarterly Westtown Gazette

Mary Brooks of the Westtown School has agreed to write an article for the next newsletter on the history of Westtown School.

Tape ends. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00.