

**WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**Westtown Municipal Building, 1039 Wilmington Pike, West Chester**  
**Thursday, February 19, 2015 6:00 PM**

In attendance: Commission members Dave Walter, Gail Guterl, Dan Campbell, Patrick McDonough, Erica Reilly, and Jonathan Hoppe. Karen Marshall, Heritage Preservation Coordinator for the Chester County Planning Commission (CCPC), was also in attendance.

I. **Call to Order**

Dave Walter called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

II. **Approval of Minutes from January 15, 2015**

Minutes from the January 15 meeting were approved. Gail Guterl made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Dave Walter.

III. **Visit and Remarks – Karen Marshall, CCPC**

Karen Marshall spoke to the Historical Commission (HC) about the Chester County Preservation Network, a 501(c)3 nonprofit group of affiliated local organizations dedicated to preserving Chester County's historic resources. The group lends support to many area historical commissions, and that architect Phil Yocum would act as our representative to that group, and that he would attend Commission meetings periodically. The Preservation Network will lend letters of support for Westtown preservation projects where applicable. Karen extended an invitation to the HC to send our Commission Chair, and possibly another representative, to the spring workshop of the National Association of Preservation Commissions' Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program® (CAMP) to be held at the Brandywine Conservancy on April 25, 2015. Karen similarly offered invitations to the Preservation Network's June 17<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Celebration and its spring training workshop.

IV. **Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)**

None.

V. **Old Business**

**A. 1074 Wilmington Pike/Fair Share Properties**

Dave Walter reported that the Planning Commission's (PC) recommendations to the BOS did not include any provisions related to preserving the historic structure. Dave hoped though the developer could be persuaded to voluntarily document the property prior to its demolition, and to reuse the stone from the house in a planned retaining wall in the new construction.

**B. Bozzuto Project**

Pat McDonough asked Karen Marshall about the status of the planned reconfiguration of the PA 926 / US 202 intersection. Karen reported from her experience on the CCPC that the expansion of US 202 was a “done” decision, and that no land would be taken from the Tavern property there, the expansion being done within current highway boundaries. The plans will be reviewed, however, to see if the tavern property should be surveyed to gauge if the structure will need to be moved, as the Hamorton Methodist Church in Kennett Township was during the realignment of Baltimore Pike.

Pat McDonough reported that 33 recommendations were made to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) regarding the Bozutto project, and that the BOS has not yet made further comment on the issue.

Jonathan Hoppe asked if a frame house located on that property fronting Route 926 would be demolished, and suggested that if it was to be that the HC document the structure.

### **C. Historic Resources Listing Update Status Report**

Dave Walter reported that he met with former Township supervisor Bob Adams, and that Mr. Adams graciously allowed him to document both the interior and exterior of his historic home at 918 Shippen Lane. Jim Guterl took photographs, and Mr. Adams graciously donated blueprints and a brief written history of the structure to the Township.

### **D. Shiloh A.M.E. Cemetery Update**

No updates were made at this time.

### **E. Taylor Burial Ground Memorial Update**

Dave Walter reported that he and Jonathan Hoppe had met with Dr. Marshall Becker, Prof. Emeritus of Archaeology at West Chester University, who had conducted an archaeological dig at the cemetery in the 1970s. Dr. Becker had offered his memories of the dig, and suggested to those members potential locations of tombstones and skeletons recovered during that expedition. Dave Walter had located a descendant of Thomas Taylor who may be an aid in securing tombstones from the Federal Government for those Taylor veterans, but that money would still have to be raised for their installation.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. Oakbourne Mansion Holiday Event and Decorations Tour**

Gail Guterl announced she and Jonathan Hoppe would be collaborating on a play to be presented at the event, to feature 2 historic figures from Westtown Township and possibly enlisting the aid of township residents. Dave Walter suggested that the HC, in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Commission, could organize a tour of historic houses in the township that are decorated for the holidays, and that money could be raised through

this to be used for maintenance of the Oakbourne Mansion. This would need approval from the BOS.

#### **B. BOS Meeting Attendance Schedule**

HC members were asked to attend the first BOS of each month to give our monthly report and to report back any comments. Dave Walter, as Chairman of the HC, is unable to attend them all. Members discussed their schedules and will work out a schedule of attendance.

#### **C. Summer Newsletter Article**

Erica Reilly has submitted her article on the Pennsylvania Epileptic Hospital and Colony Farm for inclusion in the Spring Newsletter. Dave Walter will write an article for the Summer Newsletter on the Camp Elder love story.

#### **D. Donations to Township Files**

In addition to the aforementioned documents donated by Mr. Adams, Jonathan Hoppe donated a 1982 pamphlet on that property, *The History of Our Land 1681-1981* by Jess I. Schlaansthine. Erica Reilly donated a copy of a 1940 report of the Pennsylvania Epileptic Hospital and Colony Farm. Gail Guterl is seeking to get a copy of a report of the history of the property from the Church of the Loving Shepherd marking its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011.

#### **VII. Public Comment (All Topics)**

None.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Dave Walter, seconded by Gail Guterl, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 PM.

The next Historical Commission meeting is March 19, 2015 at 6:00 PM.