

WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Westtown Municipal Building, 1039 Wilmington Pike, West Chester
Thursday, July 21, 2016 6:00 P.M.

In attendance: Commission members David Walter, Pamela Boulos, Pat McDonough, Dan Campbell, and Erica Reilly.

I. **Call to Order**

David Walter called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

II. **Approval of Minutes from June 16, 2016**

Pam Boulos made a motion to approve the minutes from June 16, 2016. Dan Campbell seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Dave Walter made announced that Joe Valentino, a 94-year-old Westtown resident and veteran, passed away. The Township and Historical Commission recently recognized Joe for his valor and dedication, with Rep. Truitt awarding him a certificate at a special ceremony.

III. **Public Comment (non-agenda items)**

There was none.

IV. **Old Business**

A. **Historic Resources Listing**

Dan Campbell has drafted a letter to go to Westtown residents with homes or structures on the historic resources list. He also created a postcard to go with the letter, which residents can return to the township. The postcard gives the township permission to photograph the exterior of the owner's property for documentation purposes. The postcard includes a signature, printed name, phone number, and best time to contact. Dave Walter suggested adding an email address as well. Dan will edit the letter and postcard and recirculate to the commission for approval.

Dave stated that there is a potential new property to be added to the listing - 809 General Howe Drive. This was once a larger property: 807 is the house and 809 is the barn. The barn structure appears on the 1883 Breous Farm Atlas. Cliff Parker at the County Archives said an old deed shows the address as one property with a house and structures. Typically, barns were not listed separately from homes. The listing will be amended, and included in the yearly update presented to the Board of Supervisors.

B. **Taylor Burial Ground Marker Status**

David Walter stated that progress for the Taylor family burial ground has been moving along. The markers will be erected in the Pleasant Grove development on Saturday, October 15, 2016 at 10 a.m.

Dave has received a two-hour commitment from the Philadelphia Colonial Fife and Drum Band, consisting of three fifers, 2 snare drums, and a bass drum. They played at the Democratic National Convention. The First Delaware reenactors are also coming to the ceremony. They have a replica 1777 Chester County militia flag that flew at the battle, which they will be bringing to the event. Colonel Ed Brandt, the Deputy Chief Chaplain of the US Army National Guard, will be in attendance, as well as two or three prominent members of various reenactment groups.

There will be a half-mile march through Pleasant Grove. Dave will place mailers in the mailboxes of Pleasant Grove residents letting them know about the event, so they can attend. Rep. Dan Truitt will also be in attendance.

Five stones are being made in Vermont, and West Chester University has agreed to place Valentine Kirgan's headstone in the ground as well. He was a famous stonemason married to Colonel Taylor's granddaughter. There will be three Taylor family, two Faucett, and one Kirgan headstones laid in the Pleasant Grove Development to honor the Taylor family.

C. **Westtown Day**

Erica Reilly provided an update on planning for Westtown Day. Postcards and lawn signs have been made, and the event is being advertised on the e-billboard on Route 202. She is working on a banner to be hung at the park entrance and program for the event. Local press has also agreed to cover and promote the event.

There will be food trucks, carnival games, face painting, Civil War reenactors, a play about Westtown resident Isaac Winters, a petting zoo, live music, and many other activities. Local farms and schools will give demonstrations while tours of the mansion and community garden take place. Police, fire and EMT trucks will be available for kids to tour. The event will take place at the Oakbourne Mansion from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on September 17.

Members of the Historical and Parks & Recreation Commissions will be meeting with Rob Pingar, Mark Gross, and Chief Bernot on August 9 to discuss event logistics.

D. **Historic Preservation Awards**

Pat McDonough has been compiling a list of buildings and people he believes should be recognized by the Historical Commission. They will be presented with a certificate or plaque at Westtown Day. The commission discussed how Westtown School and Oakbourne Mansion are the most prominent examples of historic preservation in the

township. They also discussed a number of individual and private homes/structures, on which they will vote at the August meeting.

E. **Crebilly Farm Historical Aspects Report**

The Historical Commission is working on a report about the historical aspects and significance of Crebilly Farm. The 400-acre property was the site of Revolutionary War skirmishes, Darlington Tavern, and the crossroads of Darlington. It also contains several historic farm buildings. Pat McDonough stated that he believes the chapel on Crebilly Farm was recognized as one of the top ten private chapels in the past few years. Dave asked the commission to send any information to Eileen Fresta, who will be gathering the data to put together into a report when requested by the Board of Supervisors.

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

None.

VIII. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.