

WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Westtown Municipal Building, 1039 Wilmington Pike, West Chester
Thursday, March 16, 2017 6:00 P.M.

In attendance: Commission members David Walter, Gail Guterl, Erica Reilly, Dan Campbell and Ray Sarnacki. Also in attendance: Township Manager Robert Pingar and Parks & Recreation Commissioner Donel Manke.

I. **Call to Order**

Gail Guterl called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

II. **Approval of Minutes from February 16, 2017**

Dave Walter made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2017 meeting. Erica Reilly seconded the motion. Those present unanimously accepted the minutes.

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

None.

IV. **Old Business**

A. **Historical Resources Listing Photography Project**

Effort on this project continues with members of the Historic Commission (HC) working towards a March 31, 2017 completion. Pam Coleman has increased the Township's Dropbox storage to allow for archiving the photos taken by the HC.

B. **Veterans' Monument Committee (VMC) Update**

Dave Walter, the Historic Commission's representative on the Veterans' Monument Committee, provided an update on the process for selecting a site. Two sites were initially proposed: one on East Pleasant Grove Road, at the site of the old barn near the parking area for the ball fields, and the second on S. Concord Road near the entrance to Oakbourne Park. In reviewing the sites, landscape architect, Carter van Dyke, suggested a third alternative in a grove of trees not far from the flagpole in front of the mansion.

While the VMC will make the final recommendation to the Board, Rob Pingar urged members of the HC to prioritize their preferences. After some discussion, the commissioners stated their preference for the site suggested by the landscape architect, but the group also felt the site on S. Concord Road was acceptable. Handicap access issues led the commissioners to discount the site near the ball field.

VMC representatives from the Parks & Recreation (P&R) Commission and Friends of Oakbourne (FoO) will also involve their fellow commissioners in the selection process. Robert Pingar indicated that once the Board approves the site, a landscape architect would create a design and master plan for the monument for implementation in phases.

C. Verbiage for Interpretative Sign at Rustin Walk

Dave Walter reported that the builder and developer of Rustin Walk have pledged \$3,000 towards an interpretive sign to be located on public land in the development. The sign would describe the history and include photographs of the former Maple Shade Farm, once owned by the Marshall Jones family. The HC will look for photographs and verbiage in the township's archive for use in the design of the sign.

D. Placement on Historical Resource List

A short discussion of the criteria for placing a site on the Westtown Historical Resource list took place. No changes were proposed and the discussion will continue at a future meeting.

V. New Business

A. Westtown Day Planning – September 9, 2017

Erica and Pam Boulos represent the HC on the planning committee for this event. Erica indicated that a meeting to plan the Westtown Day event would take place immediately following the HC meeting, with representatives from P & R attending as well. One of the activities being considered is a simulated archaeological dig for children. Gail Guterl suggested that a lecture by someone from the Philadelphia Archaeological Forum might be an interesting addition, perhaps scheduled at the end of the event.

B. Saving Hallowed Ground Initiative

Due to lack of time, discussion of this development was tabled to a future meeting.

VI. Public Comment (all Topics)

None.

VII. Announcements

None.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM.