

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

In attendance: Commission members David Walter, Gail Guterl, Ray Sarnacki, Paul Mullin and Erica Reilly. Township Manager Robert Pingar and Parks & Recreation Commissioner Donel Manke were also in attendance.

**I. Call to Order**

David Walter called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**II. Approval of Minutes from January 19, 2016**

Ray Sarnacki made a motion to approve the minutes from January 19, 2016. Erica Reilly seconded the motion.

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

None.

**IV. Old Business**

**A. Report from February 6 BOS Meeting Re: Historic Resources Listing**

Chair Gail Guterl presented a revised listing of historic properties to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) at their February 6 meeting. The list is presented on a yearly basis to keep the Board updated on the number of properties considered to be historic in Westtown (built in 1900 and before). There were a few deletions of homes that were torn down on Crebilly Farm, alongside Route 202. 1050 S New Street was changed from a 5 to a 3 classification and 809 General Howe was added to the listing.

Supervisor Tom Haws questioned if homeowners were going to be notified of their change in historic listing status. Gail agreed this should be done. New letters were sent to anyone whose status had changed since the initial letter was sent two years ago. They will have a month to respond (March 16).

The Historic Resources Listing will wait to be presented and approved by the BOS until any responses are received. It was also agreed on that going forward, a letter will be sent to homeowners in December advising if their property has been added, changed or removed from the listing. The letter will give homeowners a month to respond. After the one-month waiting period has ended, the Historical Commission will present an updated Historic Resources Listing to the BOS.

**B. Update on Photographing and Storing Historical Listing Photos**

The Historical Commission has been photographing historic properties in Westtown. A letter was previously sent to Westtown historic homeowners asking to photograph their homes, and those who gave permission were contacted for a picture session. Members were each assigned homes to photograph.

Erica Reilly discussed storage of the photos with the township. It was decided that they would be uploaded to a Dropbox account. Pam Coleman of Westtown Township would download them to the server to be saved for posterity. In addition, the photos will be printed and stored in the Historical Commission file drawer in the township building.

Erica showed commission members how to use Dropbox to upload and comment on photos. The deadline to have all photos in is March 31.

Gail Guterl advised there have been two additional responses allowing the commission to photograph their homes. She will divvy up the assignments.

### **C. Veterans Monument Committee Update**

Dave Walter reported that the Veterans Monument Committee has already selected two potential sites for the monument. They are waiting to hear back from the township on which site they prefer. Rob Pingar stated he will review both sites with the landscape architect Carter VanDyke to determine which one he believes would be the best location.

Dave advised that as of now, the committee is planning to erect a granite slab with emblems of the five armed services, along with a 20-foot flagpole. They plan to have the memorial completed in time for Veterans Day this November. The commission discussed having the monument ready in time for Westtown Day, which is scheduled for September 9. This would speed up the timeline but would be a great event for that day.

### **D. Rustin Walk Development Signage**

Rustin Walk, a new development by Rustin High School, is currently under construction by NV Homes. Dave Walter had spoken with Rob Pingar about erecting signage explaining the rich history of the land the development was being built on. The land was once the property of Marshall Jones, a prominent Westtown farmer.

Dave received a quote for an aluminum sloped sign for \$1500. Rob spoke with Joe Behrle, a partner at NV Homes, who was responsive to the idea. He approved the project as well as stating that NV Homes would be willing to contribute up to \$1500 towards the signage. They need to work out the details, such as where the sign would be located. A walking trail that will be built around the development is the most likely spot. Rob is going to discuss the project with the BOS at their next meeting.

**V. New Business**

**A. Westtown Day**

Erica Reilly would like to begin the planning of Westtown Day. The event will be held on September 9, 2017. It is a joint collaboration between the Historical and Parks & Recreation Commissions. Erica asked Donel Manke, who was present at the meeting, if she could see who from P&R would be interested in volunteering their time to plan the event. P&R has lost three commissioners. Rob Pingar said the BOS has received applications from new candidates and will be reviewing and approving them soon.

Erica stated that she is hoping this year's event will be even larger and more involved than last year's. She plans to speak with the BOS about adding pony rides, additional carnival games, food vendors and activities. She and Donel will arrange for a joint meeting between the commissions.

**B. Meeting with Mindy Rhodes Regarding Historic Structures in Westtown**

Mindy Rhodes, an activist to save Crebilly Farm from being developed, met with Historical Commission members to discuss her experience living at 809 General Howe Drive. She is in the process of obtaining photographs of the property from her mother.

**C. Gazette Assignments**

Gail states that she is finishing writing an article for the Spring issue of the Gazette. The article will be about Isaac Winters, a free African-American resident who fought in the Civil War. The article is due March 6.

Paul will write the article for the Summer issue, which is due June 5. He will write how the Brandywine Battle affected the residents of Westtown, including the Quaker population.

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

None.

**VII. Announcements**

None.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.