

**WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**Westtown Municipal Building, 1039 Wilmington Pike, West Chester**  
**Thursday, January 18, 2018 6:00 P.M.**

In attendance: Commission members Gail Guterl, David Walter, Ray Sarnacki, Paul Mullin, Dan Campbell, Erica Reilly, Pamela Boulos

**I. Call to Order**

Gail Guterl called the meeting to order at 6:23 PM.

**II. Approval of Minutes from December 21, 2017**

Dave Walter made a motion to approve the December 21 minutes. Ray Sarnacki seconded the motion. There were no comments and the motion was approved.

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

There was none.

**IV. Reorganization – Election of Officers**

**A. Chair:** Erica Reilly was unanimously voted Chair.

**B. Vice Chair:** Ray Sarnacki was unanimously voted Vice Chair.

**C. Secretary:** Pamela Boulos was unanimously voted Secretary.

**V. Old Business**

**A. BOS meeting report**

Paul Mullin (PM) reported on Historical Commission matters at the last Board of Supervisors meeting. At the meeting, Rob Pingar (RP) noted that he should be included in any meetings about the copyright of the History of Westtown book.

**B. Shiloh AME Cemetery Project**

A few commission members met with RP, Pat McKenna (PM), and Will Ethridge (WE) to discuss the project. PM wants to get informal approval from the BOS before he approaches the property owner, Mr. Minacci. RP recommended that the Historic Commission generate a proposed site plan of the property. All discussed the available site plans and other documentation. Ray Sarnacki (RS) noted that he had a topographic plan of the site. RS will send Pam Boulos (PB) and Dan Campbell (DC) the surveyor's documentation from the GPR to generate a draft of a proposed site

plan. RS will email RP to confirm the minimum distance of the driveway entrance to the intersection of Shiloh Road and Little Shiloh Road.

**C. History of Westtown – Planning**

The commission would like to print an updated version of the history of Westtown Township. GG has tried to get clarification on copyright issues concerning the current book. PM's firm is not an intellectual property firm. PM recommended consulting an alternate law firm specializing in intellectual property. GG was concerned about incurring costs. We do not have an answer as to whether we are approved to consult an intellectual property firm.

PB raised the question of publishing our own book, but the consensus was that the HC does not have enough material—particularly photographs—to publish our own book. RS noted that perhaps we could create a website instead.

**D. Status of Rustin Walk Interpretive Sign**

All discussed the Rustin Walk sign draft and offered edits to the copy. Everyone preferred that the text be justified to the left. Everyone will review the second draft and share comments.

**E. Status of Veteran's Memorial Planning**

Dave Walter (DW) will check in with RP on the status of the Veteran's memorial planning. Carter Van Dyke (CVD) had provided a proposal to the BOS, but they have not approved it.

**F. Historic Preservation Award Criteria**

DC is using the West Chester Historic Preservation awards as a guide for granting historic awards in Westtown Township. All agreed that the criteria should be loose. We do not have enough historic properties to have multiple categories. All discussed implementing an "Excellence in Preservation" award in lieu of multiple categories. All discussed adding a category for an individual who "contributed to historic knowledge." DC also noted the possibility of a historic plaque program.

**G. Oakbourne Archeology and National Register**

GG wants to talk to the Board about applying to get the Oakbourne Mansion on the National Register of Historic Places. It is an historic property and the township could qualify for grants to maintain and restore the mansion if it was granted this status.

**VI. New Business**

- A. A special Historical Commission meeting is scheduled with the Board of Supervisors on March 26 at 7:30pm. All HC members will generate a list of topics to add to the agenda for the meeting.
- B. All discussed future Westtown Gazette articles. GG just submitted a piece on Sleepy Hollow Farms (now Sts. Simon and Jude Church). DW will contribute to the next edition with a piece on Passmore Williamson. Erica Reilly is planning an article on Dr. Robert Poole, a 90-year-old resident who served as a prominent physician in West Chester and Medical Director of Oakbourne Mansion when it was the Smith Home.

**VII. Announcement**

- A. There is a meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup> at Cheyney University to discuss SEPTA reintroducing trains through the township.

**VIII. Public Comment (All topics)**

None.

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm.