

WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Westtown Municipal Building, 1039 Wilmington Pike, West Chester
Thursday, February 15, 2018 6:00 P.M.

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

I. Call to Order

Ray Sarnacki called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes from January 18, 2018

Paul motioned to approve the minutes. Gail seconded the motion. There were no comments, and the motion was approved.

III. Public Comment (non-agenda items)

There was none.

IV. Old Business

A. BOS meeting report

Dave Walter (DW) reported at the last Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting. DW reported that the BOS had no questions.

B. Shiloh AME Cemetery Project

DW spoke with Pat McKenna (PM) regarding the Shiloh AME Cemetery Project. PM noted that the Board of Supervisors should weigh in on how they would like to proceed with the project.

Dan Campbell (DC) generated a proposed plot scheme showing how the land could be divided to allow for four additional houses to be built while also allowing for a portion of the land to be dedicated to a memorial of the church and cemetery. The WHC intends to discuss this project with the Board of Supervisors at their meeting on March 26.

C. History of Westtown – Planning

Gail Guterl (GG) met with Barbara Stonestrum (BS), daughter of Arthur James, on 2/14. BS is willing to transfer the copyright of the History of Westtown publication. GG is to contact the intellectual property law firm in King of Prussia for transfer of a

copyright from an individual to a corporation to obtain a cost estimate to present to the BOS.

D. Status of Rustin Walk Interpretive Sign

GG contacted Lynn Reynolds with the second round of changes to the Rustin Walk sign. When she made the changes, she copied Carol De Wolf. Carol had a number of recommendations. The HC will read over her recommendations and send feedback to Pam Boulos (PB) for incorporation into a third round of changes.

E. Status of Veteran's Memorial Planning

DW reported that the BOS wants Rob Pingar to confirm that the original grant money used to purchase the park ground did not have any restrictions on installing a Veteran's memorial. DW offered to Rob to help him track down information, but Rob had not gotten back to him.

F. Historic Preservation Award Criteria

Dan Campbell (DC) presented a draft narrative for the Annual Awards Program for review. The narrative will be on the agenda for the March 26 meeting with the Board of Supervisors.

G. Oakbourne Archeology and National Register

GG shall ask Karen Marshall for a write-up on the National Historic Register, to help the Board of Supervisors better understand what inclusion on the Register would mean for Oakbourne Mansion and the Township.

H. Westtown Day Planning

Westtown Day 2018 is October 7 at Oakbourne Park. The planning committee, consisting of members of the HC and Parks & Rec will meet next Tuesday, February 20.

V. New Business

A. Township Demolition by Neglect Clause

DC stated that at a recent seminar on Historic Commissions, hosted by the Chester County Planning Commission, it was recommended that the township's "demolition by neglect cause" should be removed from the Historic Commission Ordinance. This is because under other sections of Township ordinances that function is, or should be, the duty of the Construction Code Official.

B. Brandywine Battlefield January 30th Meeting Report

DW reported on the SEPTA meeting about reinstating SEPTA regional rail service in Westtown. Reportedly, the plan will not affect anything historical.

C. Mercer School

Paul Mullin (PM) discussed the possibility that a historic schoolhouse was located on the current Oakbourne Park property.

D. Chester County Historic Preservation Network Event – March 10

VI. Announcements

None.

VII. Public Comment (All topics)

None.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.