

WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Westtown Municipal Building, 1039 Wilmington Pike, West Chester
Thursday, September 20, 2018 6:00 P.M.

In attendance: Commission members Gail Guterl, Paul Mullin, Pamela Boulos, Erica Reilly, Ray Sarnacki, Dave Walter, Dan Campbell; Karen Marshall from the Chester County Planning Commission.

I. Call to Order

Erica Reilly (ER) called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes from August 19, 2018

Dave Walter (DW) noted that Oakbourne Mansion should be the first roadside marker property. With that change, Paul Mullin (PM) motioned to approve the minutes. Gail Guterl (GG) seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Public Comment (non-agenda items)

None.

IV. Old Business

A. BOS meeting report

At the last BOS meeting, Pam Boulos (PB) gave an update to the BOS on the ongoing Historical Commission projects. There were no items to report back.

B. Shiloh AME Cemetery Project

Due to other Township commitments, Pat McKenna (PM) has not had a chance to work on this project; the project is still on hold.

C. History of Westtown

GG reported that John Hoppe added all the neighborhood names to a town of Westtown along with all the street names for each neighborhood, and some of the history for the neighborhoods. Ray Sarnacki (RS) is working on a Geographic Information System (GIS) map of the historic properties and is planning on doing a historic map overlay.

All discussed making edits to the History of Westtown document. It was agreed that everyone should copy out a segment of the History of Westtown, work on their individual sections, then forward the updated sections to GG for compilation.

D. Update on Veteran's Memorial Project

DW spoke with Rob Pingar (RP) about an update on the Veteran's Memorial Project. RP has not had a chance to get back to Carter Van Dyke.

All discussed the Kirgan gravestone and agreed it does not belong in a veteran's memorial because he did not serve. GG proposed approaching the Chester County Historical Society; Dan Campbell (DC) recommended the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission. It was also suggested that we may try to find a living descendant who would want the stone.

E. Westtown Day Planning – October 7, 2018 – 11 am to 3 pm

Westtown Day is two weeks away. DC ordered the sign for the historic award. RS got free posters from the state to give out at the archaeological dig. DC will put together a self-guided tour for the mansion. ER will follow up with Pam Coleman about showing an ad for the day on the electronic billboard.

F. Huey Property Status

RS reported on the Huey Property. RS contacted Dr. Heather Wholey of West Chester University's Anthropology Department. Dr. Wholey will get back to RS and let him know whether students are interested in helping with an archaeological survey of the site. RS noted that the site is in better shape than originally thought, but the ruins are in worse shape. RS contacted Jim Gibb at the Smithsonian, who does cultural resource management. Jim would be willing to make a visit, map the site, and provide a measured drawing of the site—i.e., a 3-dimensional scan for a Revit model. RS raised questions about the current yard waste, as well as where volunteers will park near the site without disturbing the neighbors. All discussed where any found artifacts would reside, and whether PA One Call would need to be contacted in advance of any excavation.

G. Brandywine Conservancy Battlefield Event Report

ER reported on the Brandywine Conservancy Battlefield Event, which was celebrating the acquisition of +/-11 acres of Brandywine Battlefield. At the event, George Washington's tent was on display. Revolutionary War re-enactment soldiers were at the event as well.

V. New Business

This item was added to the agenda.

A. Surface Archeology at Oakbourne Park

Ray Sarnacki will be working with Rick Brown (Friends of Oakbourne) to examine the surface archaeology at Oakbourne Park. The HC and Friends of Oakbourne have been granted permission to use a metal detector in the park. RS noted that he would like to flag where the metal detector identifies things to facilitate a dig at a later date. There is a structure near the lake and a structure in the woods that would be good locations for metal detecting. Rick will send ER a map of the old Oakbourne roads.

VI. Announcements

None.

VII. Public Comment (All topics)

None.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.