

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

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

I. Call to Order

Erica Reilly (ER) called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes from October 18, 2018

Gail Guterl (GG) motioned to approve the minutes. Paul Mullin (PM) seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Public Comment (non-agenda items)

None.

IV. Old Business

A. BOS Meeting Report – Dave Walter

Dave Walter (DW) spoke about putting a historic marker at Oakbourne Park. DW noted that the BOS did not appear to object to the idea. Pat McKenna will be working on the Crebilly Farm appeal response and will likely not have time to work on HC initiatives.

B. Shiloh AME Update

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 Book – Status Updates

The History of Westtown updating continues to progress. Jon Hoppe has been contributing lots of information about the major roads and other topics. During the January meeting, we may want to proofread sections. GG brought up a concern about removing large portions of Arthur James's original text, and how much we should stay faithful to the original text. ER noted that this is our update project, and we should change what needs to be changed and update any outdated vocabulary. Ray Sarnacki brought up a concern of the final document having a common voice; all talked about getting an editor (maybe Jon Hoppe) to harmonize the voices. GG asked

that those who have not contributed get their sections in before the January meeting. ER suggested having a special meeting to just review the book alone. ER will send out a Doodle poll to see the best availability.

D. Update on Veteran's Memorial Project

RP reported to DW that the BOS approved \$100,000 for the FY2019 for the project. The hope is to have the memorial completed before Veteran's day next year. We are still figuring out what to do with the Valentine Kirgen grave marker. Valentine Kirgen's daughter married a Hunt. DC noted that he is neighbors with a Hunt family; he will inquire as to whether they know of any relation.

E. Huey Property Status

RS reported that there has been no progress on this project due to the weather. RS reached out to a laser scanning company to create a 3d model of the site pro bono. They asked RS to contact them again in 2019 when they had more time and could do the work pro bono. GG asked about whether the mortar could be analyzed for age. DC noted that lime mortar was consistent for so long that analysis would unlikely yield any useful dating info. RS noted that the artifacts we find would be more helpful in dating the building.

F. Historic Resource Listing Updates for 2018

John Snook got in touch with GG, DW, and Mila Robinson (MR) with some discrepancies in the historic resource listing. The HC will resolve these discrepancies and update the historic resource map.

V. New Business

A. Brandywine Battlefield Task Force Subcommittee Meeting – Erica Reilly

ER reported on the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force Subcommittee Meeting. Painter's Folly is a house that Andrew Wyeth used to visit; he used to paint in the cupola. Chadds Ford Township is actually buying the property to preserve the property for open space (next to the Brandywine Valley Visitors Center).

All discussed efforts we could undertake to promote Westtown history. All discussed creating a Westtown History pamphlet and creating a phone tour using an IZI.travel application.

B. Roadside Marker for Oakbourne Mansion

DW contacted the company that made the Camp Elder sign to confirm pricing. DW will work on potential wording for an Oakbourne sign.

VI. Announcements

None.

VII. Public Comment (All topics)

None.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.