

Kennett Township Historical Commission

801 Burrows Run Road
Chadds Ford, PA 19317
www.kennett.pa.us



January 24, 2017

Commission Members Present: Lars Farmer, Jay Hughes, Jim Jacoby, Denise Klein, Sara Meadows, Judy Merhar, Ed Rahme.

Members Absent: Bob Merhar, Fredda Pennock.

Associate Members Absent: Jay Roland Minshall.

Visitors: None.

Minutes

Sara opened the Meeting at 7:00 pm

1. The Minutes of November 22, 2016, were accepted with no changes.

2. Treasurer's Report

Sara reported the following:

2017 KTHC Budget = \$2,500.00

3. Planning Commission Report:

Sara reported that Chatham Financial is considering donating the Isaac Allen House (Cox Tenant House) to the Township.

4. Board of Supervisor's Meeting

The Supervisors accepted the Planning Commission recommendation to delay for an additional 30 days, the final decision on the demolition permit submitted by Chatham Financial for the Isaac Allen House (Cox Tenant House), with the hope that there would be discussions regarding alternative ideas for preserving the property

5. Sub-Committee Reports:

5.1 History Room

Sara is sorting through pictures and considering how the room should be arranged. She said that she would welcome help if anyone had time but understood that everyone is busy.

5.2 Showcase Display

Jim continues to plan for a display which will feature the James Walter house and the encampment of the British troops there just before the Battle

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of the Brandywine. We agreed that he should be reimbursed for the materials, mainly toy soldiers that he has purchased for the display. He will provide a bill to the Commission.

5.3 Chandler Mill Bridge

Bids were submitted for its repair but because a grant was awarded to the Township, all bids were rejected. There will be an opportunity to re-bid in the near future.

Lars asked if the Bridge would eventually be open for motorcycle traffic. No one had an answer and suggested that he wait to see what use would be allowed after the repairs have been made.

6. KTHC Business

6.1 The Pines

No new activity.

6.2 Purchase of the Grange

No further information was offered.

6.3 May 2017 Program

Talk by Walt Chiquoine on the march of General Sir William Howe the British Army on September 08, 1777 through September 10, 1777.

He will begin with an introduction of the Philadelphia Campaign and the general march from Elk Neck to the Brandywine (that will explain why the British were in Kennett. Then he will focus in more detail on the marches from Pencader to the encampment in Mill Creek Hundred, and through New Garden and Kennett to Kennett Square. Jim's new display will complement Chiquoine's talk and Jim will try to get it completed in time for the program. Everyone was asked to try to come up with a good title for the program which would describe the program well and get more people interested enough to attend.

6.4 Sweetbriar Development

Sweetbriar Plaque – Civil Engineering drawings were presented to illustrate where the plaque will be positioned. Everyone was satisfied with the proposed placement that will be at the end of the driveway to the house, within the development, not along the public road as we had expected. Denise will work on the final design idea and Sara will contact Scott Emerson to find out exactly what the developers need from us.

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6.5 Isaac Allen House (Cox Tenant House)

Refer to Item #3 Planning Commission Report. Sara also shared the historic resource report on an adjacent property located at 429 McFarlan Road. Lisa Moore, who is handling the Isaac Allen House discussions, suggested that one of Chatham's conditions for withdrawing the Allen House demolition permit application, might be the guarantee that the house at 429 could eventually be demolished. Like the Allen House, it is also classified as 2B. After discussion, we all agreed that, despite the architectural significance of this house, the age and historic context of the Allen House would justify the loss of the house at 429 McFarlan Road. The current owner has a lifetime right to live there, so the demolition is not currently being sought.

6.6 Chester County Historic Preservation Network Workshop

Denise attended the CCHPN workshop on Demolition by Neglect. The workshop was held at Soledad Mansion that is currently being restored. Other projects were presented. Speakers encouraged reuse of historic structures as essential services so that they are provided for in Township budgets. Speakers emphasized the importance of Township Ordinances. Denise will research further into examples of successful ordinances. It was noted that our Township has had some success protecting historic resources; i.e. The Quilt Shop and The Pines. We discussed several other properties that are at great risk such as the house on the Hamorton cut-off, and the Gilbert Potter House. We were not able to offer any solutions or new ideas - these are difficult issues and we are concerned.

Denise suggested that we might consider inviting all owners of historic properties in the Township to a tea or some informal get together. This would let them know we value their properties and hopefully we could provide useful information about tax credits, etc. and they would have the opportunity to interact with others who have similar concerns, issues and possible solutions. Denise volunteered to explore this idea further.

6.7 Judy will send a plant to Vivian Shepherd (she was in serious car accident in December but is slowly recovering).

6.8 Lars presented a report on the Old Kennett Meeting House – 200 visitors on the Chadds Ford Candle Light Tour in December. 6.9 All Commissioners shall brainstorm to bring ideas for use of the Isaac Allen house (the Cox Tenant House) to the February meeting.

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END MINUTES

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Ed Rahme, Secretary