

Kennett Township Historical Commission

801 Burrows Run Road
Chadds Ford, PA 19317



January 25, 2021

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87490216388>

Commission Members Present: Lars Farmer (Chair), Denise Klein, Judy Merhar, Fredda Pennock, Diane McGovern, Ed Rahme

Members: Absent: None

Visitors: Diane Hicks, Karen Marshall, Carolyn Roland

Minutes

Lars opened the Meeting at 7:07 pm

- 1. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the December 22, 2020 meeting were accepted with no changes.
- 2. Treasurer's Report:** A bracelet has been purchased and given to Sara – need approval of purchase. (Fredda has not been reimbursed by the Township yet). We have a balance of \$1,500.00. Fredda inquired about registering for the CCHPN.
- 3. Abraham Taylor house:** Diane Hicks will reach out to Jim Donaghy and Brian Smith to find the status of the renovation. Of the Abraham Taylor house on the Exelon property. Karen Marshall suggested the possibility of fencing off the house and providing a small parking area with a sign describing the history of the house.
(From Previous Meeting Notes: Exelon purchased the property on 12-31-19. They are proposing a plan for interior demolition of the house due to extensive rain and termite damage. The first floor is rotted and very unsafe. They braced it from below. The house is currently secured with plywood over the windows. Their plans for the building include an interpretative center in the basement and possibly offices or a fitness center for employees on the first and second floors. The house will be outside their new security fencing. Karen pointed out that since this is a pre-revolution dwelling that a preservation firm needs to review Exelon's plan and then the plans need to be submitted to the State (SHPFA) for approval. Karen will help get the proper people lined up to take the next steps. In the short-term Exelon will look into fencing the property off for additional safety. The permit that Exelon submitted to do the demolition will be denied by Township.)
- 4. The Pines:** No new news presented.
(From Previous Meeting Notes: Sophia Hanson brought in an architect as a first step to try to get a grant to fix up the house for historic tours.)

- 5. Stonehouse on Kaolin Road:** The verbiage for the sign is in Jim Jacoby's notebook. Ed sent Jim a note requesting a copy. Ed to follow up to get a copy of the drawing.
- 5.1 Spar Hill Farm:** Diane McGovern reported that nothing new has transpired. Las will draft a letter requesting that the silo be saved. Denise Klein will attend the meeting (real or virtual) with Lars.
- (**From Previous Meeting Notes:** Money has been put into the 2021 budget for demolition. There continues to be a consensus among the Commission to retain the silo. Diane Hicks believes the Supervisors are in agreement with this proposal.)
- 6. Annual Program:** Fredda will coordinate with Gretchen to set up a Webinar account for the March program. She will also confirm Seth Henshaw's participation and his facility with webinars.
- 7. HARB Discussion:** Karen Marshall will email Cory Kegerise to invite him to attend the March meeting to discuss the KTHC becoming a HARB.
- (**From Previous Meeting Notes:** Diane Hicks and Karen feel that obtaining **Certified Local Government Status** from the state is preferable to obtaining HARB designation. Diane will speak with Cory Kegerise from the County to determine next steps.)
- 8. Sign at Clifton Mills: No new news presented.**
- (**From Previous Meeting Notes:** Denise did not get any response from David Taylor either by e-mail or phone. It appears he has lost interest in the project. Karen suggested that we could put signage at the Abraham Taylor house instead which could mention Clifton Mill as well. The Commission found this a satisfactory alternative.)
- 9. Approval of Officers:** Suggested slate of officers for 2021 is
- Lars Farmer, nominated for President - Fredda Nominated, Ed Seconded. Vote: Unanimous
 - Diane McGovern, nominated for VP – Lars Nominated, Fredda Seconded. Vote: Unanimous
 - Ed Rahme, will continue on as secretary
 - Fredda Pennock, will continue on as treasurer
- 10. Date and Time of Meetings:** Meetings will be changed to fourth Monday of the month at 7pm. February 22, 2021 will be the next meeting.
- 11. The Grange:** The building is in an advanced state of repair. Diane Hicks reviewed some of the steps that the Township has taken and will continue to explore other options to contact Mr. Andrew Moore (owner) to save the building.

END MEETING NOTES

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Ed Rahme, Secretary