

# Kennett Township Historical Commission

801 Burrows Run Road  
Chadds Ford, PA 19317  
[www.kennett.pa.us](http://www.kennett.pa.us)



April 23, 2019

**Commission Members Present:** Sara Meadows, Lars Farmer, Diane McGovern, Jay Hughes, Denise Klein, Fredda Pennock, Ed Rahme

**Members: Absent:** Jim Jacoby, Judy Merhar

**Visitors:** Tracy Bhalla, Carolyn Roland

## Minutes

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### Sara opened the Meeting at 7:08pm

1. The minutes of the April 01, 2019 meeting were accepted with no changes.

#### 2. Treasurer's Report:

Fredda reported an expense of \$20 for the Chester County Historic Preservation Network Convention. Denise attended the convention. She reported that Jane Dorchester spoke at the convention.

**Current Balance:** \$1815.00

#### 3. Board of Supervisors Meeting:

3.1 Sara reported no new information

#### 4. Sub-Committee Reports:

4.1 **Annual Program:** Discussion of locations of posters. We will not have a KTHC meeting in May out next meeting will be in June.

4.2 We will host our annual committee dinner on May 29<sup>th</sup> at Grain.

#### 5. KTHC Business

5.1 **The Cox Tenant House:** No work is scheduled until a plan is finalized

5.2 **The Pines:** possible use by non-profit – Township is researching. The Commission believes that a Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC) marker should be placed at the Pines. We will work with KURC to create the marker and apply to PHMC for agreement for the marker and its placement.

5.3 **Spar Hill Farm** – Spar Hill's historic value is that it serves as an excellent example of farm evolution in the area. Sara will be setting up a visit to the Farm. The Commission will make recommendations on which structures should be kept and potential uses of the property. Sara noted that one of the arc stones is on the property.

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- 5.4 **Demolition Permits** - Sara had a meeting with Jeanine Spears from the County, Lisa Moore, KT Manager, Diane Hicks, KT Zoning Officer and Jim Guthrie from the KT Planning Commission to document the way demolition permits are handled in the Township—Currently the Township Ordinance describes permits being reviewed by the Zoning Officer and then the Planning Commission if necessary. The system the Township now has in is to have a representative of KTHC review and sign off on ALL demolition permits and to review and comment on all building permits which involve historic properties. The Building/Codes Officer also reviews the permits for adherence to building codes and if Zoning is involved, the Zoning Officer also reviews the plans. This system adds an extra layer of protection for historic properties. At the present time, the Planning Commission has a strong interest in historic properties but we recognize that might not always be the case. We feel that the Historic Commission will always be made up of people with a strong desire for the preservation of historic properties, so we believe that the review of historic property permits should start with them. The Township’s 2011 Historic Resource Survey provides an easy way to begin to identify historic significance of any property in the Township. .
- 5.5 **New Cellular Phone tower proposed** - There is concern for the installation of a cellular tower at 124 Old Kennett Road. It may be in view of historic properties. Sara suggested evaluating the surrounding historic properties to check for view to the proposed tower. The Simon Sisters House may be within the view corridor of the cell tower. Sara will follow up with details about the properties which lie within the view shed and will pass on the information to the Zoning Officer who was formally asked for her comments. Historic Questions – Sara reported that KTHC often receives requests for information, through the History room by people who are interested in learning about specific historic properties, or who are searching for information about their families and a variety of other “historic” topics. As a representative of KTHC, Sara uses the resources in the History Room (which also serves as her Township office) to find answers.
- 5.6 **Bob’s Tree Thriving** – Bob Merhar’s commemorative cherry tree has been relocated from the field next to the back patio to a place next to the walkway to the Public Meeting Room and is thriving. (a before & after picture will be attached to the archived minutes.)
- 5.7 **Battle of the Brandywine** – Chester County approached relevant Townships to consider placing markers to commemorate the Battle. We agreed on Clifton Mill which was probably right in the path of the British Forces on their march to the Battle of the Brandywine. Judy will start with research about the mill and then using that information, Denise will work with Karen Marshall to create the marker.

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- 5.8 **Kennett Meeting House** – Lars informed us that Kennett Meeting is selling “green” burial sites at Old Kennett Meeting. The restriction is that only materials that return to the earth are permitted in the graves.

### **END MINUTES**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted ,

Ed Rahme, Secretary