

East Fallowfield Township Historic Commission

2264 Strasburg Road
610-384-7144

Chairman: Paula Latta Coyne

Member: Fred Bissinger

Member: Arthur DeLeo

Member: Sue Monaghan

Member: Lee Schlingman

APPROVED MINUTES

Historic Commission Meeting Minutes October 10, 2007

Attendance: Paula Coyne, Chairman, Members: Arthur DeLeo, Lee Schlingman, Fred Bissinger, Sue Monaghan.

Independent Consultant: Jane Dorchester, Architectural Historian.

Secretary: Deirdre K. Desiderio

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Paula Coyne.

Approval of September 12, 2007 Meeting Minutes: Jane Dorchester states on Page 2, last paragraph the following needs to be changed to say "...to have the Developer agree to go back and check the Historic Ordinance about how far away new lot lines need to be from exterior walls of historic resources and if it's not in compliance, will they make an adjustment". Jane Dorchester also states, on page 3, third paragraph, last sentence should say "non-contributing". Fred Bissinger states on page 3, last paragraph, #1 Sentence should read: "Don't put a Developer Subdivision road sign, just the standard township road name sign". Art DeLeo moves to approve September 12th minutes with corrections, Lee Schlingman 2nd, Vote: Unanimous.

Approval of August 8, 2007 Meeting Minutes: Due to inclement weather the August 8, 2007 meeting was cancelled. Lee Schlingman moves to approve August 8, 2007 minutes Fred Bissinger 2nd. Vote: Unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS:

Review of Letter 10/10/07 Re: Subdivision Plan of Real Estate Finders, LLC (Abrahams) - (also historically known as the James Wilson Property)

The following requests have been made regarding the response letter of the Abrahams Plan:

- 1). Have EB Walsh provide a "Sketch Plan" of the entrance.
- 2). After the Sketch Plan is received, arrange a meeting with Mr. Hickman to meet at the proposed entrance to see exactly where the location will be.
- 3). Who is their contact at PennDot? Is it the County people or is it someone from District 6 in Valley Forge and to provide us with a name, phone # and email address.

Photographs and the Historic Resource Inventory Spreadsheet

Jane Dorchester suggests going through each of the pictures and crossing out any of those houses that are "not" 50+ years. Not looking at "significance". Jane Dorchester clarifies "a Historic Resource means that the house is 50 yrs or older". A contributing resource means that it is significant. A significant resource means that it is significant. Contributing resources and significant resources are automatically historic. They can't be significant or contributing if they are not historic. This is the dilemma, what can you do with all these buildings now that they've become 50 yrs old? Either you put the whole development in as one resource or you pick one house. The topic is now being explored by the National Park Service.

The spreadsheet is an inventory. You go back and ask, how significant is this? Then you do the classification and that's when you visit how significant is it. And if the only significance is that is 50 yrs or older then make it a Class 3.

The Historic Commission needs to look through the list because it needs to be a group decision; it could be very time consuming. The Committee needs to come up with definitions of the classifications.

Jane Dorchester suggested that Paula Coyne looks through the inventory and cross out the ones that she knows are not 50 yrs or older. Don't worry about significance. Then when Paula is doing that, the committee can come up with definitions of Class 1, 2 and 3. Paula asks Jane to give them guidelines. Paula would like to put in an amendment to the ordinance with the classifications defined. Jane can come up with working definitions, which will be distributed to the Board. Once definitions are agreed upon, the Board can identify which structures are Class 1, Class 2 or Class 3.

Sue Monaghan suggested having the inventory printed and distributed and we look at it around the table. It might be more expensive, but it would be less time consuming.

East Fallowfield Town Tour

Paula Coyne brought up that the Committee had voted on the Village of Ercildoun at the last meeting as the nominee for the 2008 Town Tour. Paula Coyne spoke with Cora Mae Gentile who is the President of the Fallowfield Historical Society. Cora Mae asked Paula to speak about it at the October Meeting of the Fallowfield Historical Society on October 22nd. She suggested we call Chet Ramsey for the Quaker Meeting and she has the name of the new Minister of the Church of Christ which is the little church in Ercildoun and she will email me his address. Paula said the HC would be writing a letter to her as the President of Fallowfield Historical Society as well as to the other two about the Town Tour. A letter still needs to be written.

Lee Schlingman added that she saw an incredible performance at the Fall Festival. The Coatesville Cultural Society had a wonderful group that sings and acts and is marvelous. And they could be our story teller. They were fabulous. Paula said we could include them in our Town Tour. We need to talk to the three organizations sooner than later. We need to start on this in January 2008 at the latest.

Hopefully if we get this information out there in time, there will be enough people there to volunteer.

Jane Dorchester commented that the letter can be sent out in November.

Historic Photos are on the website. The photos that were chosen at the last meeting have been posted on the website and look great.

New Business:

The Dam: Arthur DeLeo stated that the Dam almost looks finished. It was suggested that a new photo be put on the website. It was suggested that an old and a new photo be put on the website. Lee Schlingman has some good pictures. Paula Coyne suggested giving them to Sue Haldeman to put them on the website.

Arthur DeLeo commented about the bridge being restored. Paula Coyne states it won't be able to be restored soon because of several factors. The first is Cope's Bridge is slated to be bid on first. When it is finished then the Mortonville Bridge will be bid out only after final approval from the EFHC and the EFBOS.

Workshop Information was distributed.

- 1). "Separating the Trees from the Forest" presented by the Tree Vitalize Municipalities Program on 10/25/07.
- 2). Sage Film & Video is showing a 50 minute video of "the History of Tredyffrin Township" to celebrate its 300th anniversary. It's being shown at the Caln Township Municipal Building on 10/14/07.
- 3). The Fallowfield Historical Meeting is at People's Hall on Monday October 22nd at 7pm .

Arthur DeLeo spoke about a book by Tom Wessell "How to Read the Forest". It's a book about forest growth and reading the old growth woods.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deirdre K. Desiderio
Historic Commission Secretary