



# ***East Fallowfield Historical Commission***

## ***Approved Meeting Minutes***

***May 7, 2014***

### **I. Call to Order**

- Meeting called to order at 6:35pm

### **II. Meeting attendance**

- Joe McCormick, Garth Monaghan, Sue Monaghan, Fred Bissinger, Buddy Rhoades, Lee Schlingmann and Arthur DeLeo. Quorum met.

### **III. Review of minutes of prior meeting**

- Unanimous vote to adopt minutes of April 2, 2014 meeting as “approved”.

### **IV. Discussion – Open Issues**

- **Mortonville Bridge** – continued discussion of potential for additional work to change the façade of interior side of concrete “jersey barrier” walls to be more in keeping with original appearance.
    - i. Arthur DeLeo noted that he has left messages at Sen. Dinniman’s office which have not been returned. Arthur offered to stop at the Senator’s West Chester office.
    - ii. Buddy Rhoades suggested that contacting Sen. Dinniman at his Harrisburg office may have a better response
  - **Frog Hollow Bridge (Speakman’s No. 1 Covered Bridge)** – construction scheduled to commence later this year.
    - i. Joe McCormick noted that he had been in contact with the PennDOT project manager who had advised that Joe and local architect Richard Buchanan would be kept in the loop relative to project progress and site visits during construction
    - ii. Buddy Rhoades noted that PennDOT had stated the load capacity (rating) of the bridge would be increased. HE also noted concerns that the width and height not be increased which would invite larger vehicles to utilize the bridge.
    - iii. Joe McCormick noted that PennDOT has stated that although the load capacity would be increased (which is necessary due to established minimum load requirements) the load rating would not be posted on the bridge – only the height restriction would be posted – it was hoped that this would cause larger vehicles to seek alternate routes.
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- iv. Joe McCormick noted that a survey is being conducted by PennDOT to determine the structural and other elements of the bridge which may be salvaged and reused prior to bids being invited, and construction commencing.
  - **Historic Resource Map and Windshield Survey** – modifications to the Windshield Survey are needed.
    - i. Discussed how modifications to the database would be made. Sue Monaghan noted that the original database was compiled and stored on a disc, and her recollection was that Denise Miller had the disc
    - ii. Joe McCormick remembered that Lee Schlingmann had compiled a list of property transactions last year which may have included historic resource properties which could be used to update Windshield Survey data. Asked Lee to see if she could recover that list.
    - iii. Joe McCormick will contact the Township Secretary to see if she can locate the Windshield Survey disc.
  - **Website Additions** – HC plans to enhance the Township website appeal by adding photos and other information pertaining to the Township’s historic resources. Lee Schlingmann has digitized and enhanced photos provided by Buddy Rhoades for posting to Township website.
    - i. Lee Schlingmann has digitized and enhanced photos provided by Buddy Rhoades for posting to Township website. Buddy acknowledged that his original photos have been returned to him
    - ii. It was noted that HC expectations had been that the digitized photos would have been uploaded by this time, and they have not. Will pursue with the Township Secretary.
    - iii. Determine who is authorized to add information to the Township website.
    - iv. Joe McCormick noted that the Historical Commission files include many photographs which also could be digitized and posted.
  - **Annual Report for 2013** – periodic report required by the Historic Ordinance.
    - i. Joe McCormick stated that the report had been presented to the Board of Supervisors. Copies were provided for Commission members.
    - ii. Buddy Rhoades stated that he would ask Board members if they had read the report
  - **720 Buck Run Road Renovations** – planned repairs and renovations to the existing barn structure.
    - i. Joe McCormick stated that e-mail messages had been exchanged with the property representative. A date and time would be selected to afford Commission members an opportunity to view the structure prior to renovations.
    - ii. Buddy Rhoades stated he was familiar with the property and had been there.
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## V. Discussion - New Business

- **19 Rokeby Road** – concerns about the deterioration of the property which is presently vacant.
  - i. Lee Schlingmann had voiced concerns about the condition of the property and brought the property to the attention of the Historical Commission for discussion.
  - ii. It was determined that the property is listed on the Windshield Survey as a Class II historic resource. The tax parcel number is 47-7-62, and the historical significance indicated is that the house was the former residence of Ida Jones, a local poet, artist, and writer of some significance. The property is listed as having been constructed in 1830.
  - iii. It was noted that due to neglect, the property is deteriorating to the extent that it may no longer be habitable, or that the cost of repairs may be prohibitive.
  - iv. Lee Schlingmann had taken photographs of the property. Joe McCormick will forward the photos to the Commission members.
  - v. It was noted that the property had been foreclosed, and that the current owner of the property is Fulton Bank. The property has been listed for sale.
  - vi. Joe McCormick stated that according to local zoning and historic ordinances, the property owner is required to secure the property from further deterioration and damage; and in so doing, must be in compliance with the local building codes. It appears the owner is presently in violation of these ordinance requirements.
  - vii. It was agreed that concerns be conveyed to the Code Enforcement official for his review and opinion.

## VI. Adjourn Meeting – meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe McCormick

Historical Commission Chairman