

East Bradford Township Historical Commission Meeting Minutes May 16, 2023

REGULAR MEETING:

The East Bradford Township Historical Commission held a meeting on May 16, 2023 in the Copeland School House, 674 Copeland School Road, West Chester. The meeting agenda was posted to the Township website and at the Township Building on May 11, 2023. Copies were also available for attendees at the meeting.

Commission Members present: Jean Renshaw, Chair
John Marshall, Vice Chair
Ann Armstrong
Tom Russo
Steve Novak

Commission Members absent: Brett McHugh
Brad Roeder

Staff members in attendance: Andrea Campisi, Director of Planning & Zoning

Others/Citizens/Residents in attendance:

The meeting was called to Order at 7:05 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MEETING MINUTES:

January 17, 2023: Mrs. Renshaw made a motion to recommend approval of the minutes. Mrs. Armstrong seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/PRESENTATIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Two-lot Subdivision Plan: 940 Hillsdale Road

Mr. Marshall made a motion to not make any comments on the application given the lack of historic resources on the property and in the vicinity. Mrs. Renshaw seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion carried..

2. Sketch Plan: 558 Highland Road, Holy Ascension Antiochian Orthodox Church

Mrs. Renshaw made a motion to not make any formal comments on the application given the lack of historic resources on the property and in the vicinity. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion carried.

3. Variance Application: 998 Lenape Road & 972 Tigue Road, Plum Run Trail and Outdoor Heritage Center Plan, Class 1, HR# 139

The Commission reviewed the plans and questioned whether the parking lot can be constructed in such a way that native healthy and mature trees can be preserved rather than removed. The Commission also recommended additional trees be planted to comply with the Zoning Ordinance provision that requires the area between the stream and the trail to be reforested since the trail encroaches into the riparian buffer areas. Lastly, the Commission recommended the Township consider utilizing porous pavement for the parking lot. Mrs. Armstrong asked what the status of fundraising is for the project. Ms. Campisi was unsure but agreed to check with Rich Phifer and report back.

4. Bridge at Stroud Preserve

Mrs. Renshaw informed the Commission that the bridge is not on the Historic Resource Inventory nor is it a contributing resource to the Worth Jeffries Historic District.

5. Zoning Code Cheat Sheet

Mrs. Renshaw presented the Cheat Sheet that she prepared to the Commission. She explained that the purpose of the chart is to alert the Commission to what should be reviewed for applications that come before them and how the Ordinance comes into play. Mr. Russo said it would be helpful to review a few of the items in the chart at each meeting as he is still learning the ordinance and what is required. Mr. Novak agreed. Ms. Campisi offered to send the Program Assessment that was completed in 2021 prior to the June meeting so the Commission can see what ordinance changes were recommended by PHMC in preparation for the update to the Township's Zoning Ordinance later this fall.

6. Certified Local Government (CLG) Training

Ms. Campisi indicated that she was in contact with Megan McNish of PHMC regarding possible training opportunities for Historical Commission and HARB members. Ms. Campisi relayed that Ms. McNish explained that since the Township is a CLG, we are eligible for personalized training through the State Historic Preservation Office. Ms. Campisi noted that Ms. McNish offered to hold a training session for the Township either in person or via Zoom. The Commission expressed interest in doing this at the Township building this fall. Ms. Campisi agreed to report this request back to Ms. McNish along with three requested topics for training.

OTHER BUSINESS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Mrs. Renshaw noted that she attended the Chester County Historic Preservation Leadership meeting in March where she met Megan McNish from PHMC. Mrs. Renshaw also noted that she is working on a deed project that involves mapping the deeds on an atlas and asked if the other members are in support of the project and would be willing to contribute financially. The other members were in support of the project, but Ms. Campisi agreed to check with the Township's Finance Director to see if funds exist for this effort. Mrs. Renshaw also asked if the Township has a more recent tax parcel map that she can use for the project.

Ms. Campisi noted that she was contacted by Laura DeMatteo from the Chester County Planning Commission regarding the county owned bridge over Allerton Road and possible colors for the renovated bridge. Mrs. Renshaw noted that the Historical Commission provided suggested colors for the bridge several years ago and suggested Ms. Campisi check former meeting minutes for the

colors. The Commission also discussed the possibility of the current membership meeting with Ms. DeMatteo to provide an updated suggestion on the color.

MEETING ADJOURNED: The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: The next Historical Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Campisi, Director of Planning & Zoning

DRAFT