

**WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
April 9, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joshua Anderson, Roberta Eckman, John Kabli, Frank King, Jonathan Martin, and Joseph McCormick
TOWNSHIP STAFF: Justin Smiley, Township Planner
Phil Yocum, Historic Consultant, Commonwealth Heritage Group
Candice Myruski, Historic Consultant, Commonwealth Heritage Group

6:30 Work Session

Consultants, Candy Myruski and Phil Yocum reviewed the recent revisions to the Scope of Work for the revision of the Township historic sites.

Member discussion followed.

Members decided to study the scope during the month and provide suggestions to Bobbie Eckman for compilation. The scope would be further reviewed at the May 14th work session.

John Kabli, Vice Chair, called the Meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. and recognized a quorum

I. Public Comment

Cheryl Wardle, a resident of the Township, addressed the planned change in drilling technique anticipated for the Mariner East Sunoco Pipeline. She said that an identified archaeological site was near the Chester County Library and within the path of the planned digging. She asked if the Commission Members were aware of the site and what was being done to protect it.

Discussion followed.

It was explained that the Commission did not have authority to identify such sites and was not familiar with its exact location. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) had full control of identifying and protecting these sites. Bobbie Eckman offered to follow up with the PHMC.

II. Old Business

A. Applicant: Jack Kilgallen, Township resident
Request: Approval of a completed Eagle Scout project

In December, 2017, Jack Kilgallen, a resident, explained the project he wished to undertake in his efforts to complete requirements for Eagle Scout recognition in the Boys Scouts of America program. He detailed the project he wished to undertake and requested sponsorship from the Commission. The Commission was pleased to be able to sponsor him.

Jack Kilgallen completed his project and presented it to the Members and audience. He explained that he was interested in the experiences of local U.S. military veterans. Using audio and visual presentations he presented interviews with the veteran regarding their service information and reflections on experiences. Eleven veterans, male and female, in various branches, representing service during World War II, the Cold War, Korea War, Gulf War, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Mr. Kilgallen presented a large binder containing thumb drives recording each of the veteran's interviews, along with hard copies of written responses and permissions, and photographs for each.

The presentation was very well received by the Members and audience.

The Commission was pleased to accept the Eagle Scout project and recommend his work. An official letter would be written to recognize and accept the work.

B. Applicant: King Industrial
Historic Site: Site 022, Class 3
Site Address: 1420 Phoenixville Pike

Request: Recommendation for approval of a conditional use permit to build a 42,400 square foot flex building

Brian Nagle, attorney, expressed appreciation for Mr. Kilgallen's extensive project.

Mr. Nagle, using photos and maps, explained the project and explained the changes to be made addressing earlier concerns by the Planning Commission.

Discussion followed.

Motion: Finding the project will have minimal effect on the historic site, a recommendation was made to approve the conditional use permit to build a 42,400 square foot flex building.

Vote: Approved 6-0 (Anderson/McCormick)

C. Applicant: Kevin and Amy Fowler
Historic Site: Site 150, Class 1 Listed
Site Address: 501 W. Boot Road
Request: Recommendation for approval of same size window replacement

The Fowlers presented pictures and drawings of existing windows and conditions, and the proposed window replacements. Over the years many different window arrangements had been added to the structure. The size of the window openings would not be changed.

Discussion followed.

Phil Yocum discussed the age of the house and the appropriateness of the window pane layout. He suggested that a 6 over 6 pane arrangement would be more appropriate. The Fowlers were in agreement.

Motion: Finding that a 6 over 6 pane arrangement would be in keeping with the historic character of the structure, the Commission approved the window replacement

Vote: Approved 6-0 (Anderson/McCormick)

III. New Business

A. Applicant: Barbara Yearsley/Kelly Cassidy
Historic Site: Site 145, Class 2, x. 1851, frame house built as a parsonage for Grove Methodist Church
Site Address: 555 W. Boot Road
Request: Recommendation for approval of a lot line change plan

Justin Smiley showed Google views of the properties and the historic structure, and a map of the proposed change plan.

Kelly Cassidy explained her reason for the proposed plan and declared that there were no plans for development of the area.

Member discussion followed.

Motion: Finding no effect on the historic structure of landscape, a recommendation was made to approve the lot line change plan.

Vote: Approved 6-0 (Anderson/McCormick)

B. Applicant: Arrandale Associates
Historic Site: Site 120, Class 1, Listed, Stone Barn at Arrandale

Site Address: 600 W. Lincoln Hwy.
Request: Consideration of possible demolition of stone barn behind Arrandale Manor House

Mr. Lou Colagreco, lawyer, and Jim Gorman, owner, presented pictures of the site and explained the need for consideration of demolition of the stone barn directly behind the Arrandale Manor House. They explained that the barn was in failing condition and was a serious hazard. Collegium Charter School, was the neighbor directly to the rear of the barn. Additionally, Collegium was interested in purchasing the house, barn and carriage house on the property and wished to build a school building on the barn site.

Mr. Gorman explained the many unsuccessful efforts he had made over the years to find a suitable tenant.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Yocum described the importance of the entire site, as it stands, and the recognition of that importance made implicit through the inclusion of a restrictive covenant included in the condominium documents of 1994.

Members suggested that more information and discussion was needed and that alternatives to demolition needed to be considered.

Ms. Eckman offered to send Mr. Gorman names of companies that specialized in barn rehabilitations.

IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of March 12, 2018

Vote: Approved 6-0 (McCormick/Anderson)

V. Approval of the Treasurers Report

Motion: To approve the Treasurers Report of February 28, 2018

Vote: Approved 6-0 (Eckman/Anderson)

VI. Historical Commission Concerns

A. Township Update

Justin Smiley explained that a concept layout had been submitted for construction of a convenience store, with gas pumps, at the southwest corner of Ship Road and E. Lincoln Hwy. He explained plans for a loop road to provide relief for east-west bound vehicles on Ship Road. He described other anticipated construction in the area.

The project would come for Historical Commission review when it was an official plan.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: To adjourn at 9:40 P.M. (Eckman/McCormick)

Vote: Approved 6-0 (Anderson/McCormick)

Recording Secretary,


Roberta Eckman