

**WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
March 8, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Julie Bauer, Joe McCormick, Jonathan Martin, John Kabli, Roberta Eckman

TOWNSHIP STAFF: Justin Smiley, Township Planner
Ali Cleveland, Community Development Coordinator
Phil Yocum, Historic Consultant, Commonwealth Heritage Group
Joshua Anderson, Supervisor

I. Call to Order – the meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the meeting was held virtually, via Zoom.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Old Business

1. Historical Preservation Awards: Naming Discussion

Commission members discussed numerous options which included:

- the name of the person or entity that performed the work
- the earliest name of the historic site
- historic site number
- a combination of the above

Mr. Martin suggested that whoever did the work and spent the money should get the credit, and the addition of the site number would allow interested people to learn more about the property. Mr. Kabli suggested adding "circa" with the date of origin. Mr. McCormick suggested identifying the property by its most significant criteria. Ms. Eckman suggested using the site number if the property has a newer name (i.e., Chase Bank).

Other ideas included adding the site number in smaller font with a reference to the website for further information; using the name referenced in the site's historic certification process. Ms. Bauer pointed out that the mere presence of a plaque hanging on the wall will tell people that the property has been recognized for historic preservation regardless of the name on the plaque. Several members stressed consistency in all present and future awards. Mr. Yocum pointed out that researching by number is easier than by name. Ms. Cleveland cautioned using "Historic Resource" as opposed to "Site" as the number of letters may necessitate a small font if all placed on one line. Ms. Eckman suggested obtaining a proof before deciding. After much discussion, the following motion was made:

Motion: to place the Site number on the award plaques – not the name – such that the plaque will read as follows:

***West Whiteland Historic Preservation Award
Year
Site Number***

Vote: Passed 4-1 (McCormick/Martin) (Eckman opposed)

2. Artifact and Other Historic Items Inventory

Mr. Smiley explained that a Township intern has been sorting various boxes in storage in an effort to identify, consolidate, and place items in appropriate files. He emphasized that this is a work in progress and while nothing has been decided at this time, a decision as to disposition of the various items will need to be made in the near future. He presented a spreadsheet of items sorted to date.

Ms. Bauer said she communicated with Diane Snyder regarding the boxes that she has in her possession and said Ms. Snyder would like to wait until the COVID pandemic subsides so that she can meet in person to go over the various items. She estimated the volume to be about one cubic foot box.

Mr. Anderson said he previously sorted a large number of historic items located at the Boot Road House and would like to be notified before the intern starts work at this location. Mr. Smiley said the Township plans to place various historic items in display cases in the Township building but needs to identify and organize the materials first. Ms. Eckman suggested Diane Snyder and Nancy Carville as a good source of information.

IV. Approval of Minutes for February 8, 2021

**Motion: To approve the minutes of February 8, 2021
(Kabli/McCormick)**

Vote: Passed, 5-0

V. Historical Commission Concerns

Mr. Anderson said the Township would like the Commission to make a decision on what to do with the Witch's Cap. The Township is looking to sell the property where the Witch's Cap is currently stored. He noted problems with moving the Cap due to its height. Commission members discussed various groups to contact that may have an interest in the Cap:

- Chester County Historic Preservation Network
- developers
- woodworking groups; high school wood shops (Jeff Devlin – Schoolhouse Woodworking)
- high-end architectural firms that may work with farm estates
- Facebook marketplace
- Lancaster County

Use as a child play area at Exton Park was not an option due to unsafe structure and insurance issues.

After much discussion, Ms. Bauer offered to compose a narrative e-mail which she will forward to Commission members along with pictures of the Cap, which they can in-turn send out to various entities to see if there is any interest. Mr. Yocum will contact John King (Arrandale Barn); Mr. McCormick will contact Jeff Devlin Schoolhouse Woodworking; Ms. Bauer will contact CCHPN, high schools, and Boy Scouts.

VI. TOWNSHIP UPDATE:

The Township is looking for two volunteers from each Commission to form a committee to discuss the recommendations of the Urban Land Institute report on the Exton Crossroads. The committee will brainstorm best ways to educate the public on the matter. Mr. Kabli emphasized the importance of the updated historic resource survey in the process. Mr. McCormick and Mr. Kabli volunteered to be on the committee.

Mr. Yocum reported that 126 properties have now been surveyed for the historic resource inventory project. With the onset of warmer weather, Ms. Strawley expects to be able to increase the pace of surveying.

Mr. Smiley advised that of a number of big projects will be coming to the Commission for review in the near future. They include the Ship Run development, the Weston property, and plans for a 55+ community at the Valley Creek Corporate Center.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. (Kabli/McCormick)

Vote: Passed, 6-0

Recording Secretary,


Justin Smiley, AICP
Township Planner