

**WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
May 10, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe McCormick, John Prendergast, John Kabli, Bobbie Eckman, Jonathan Martin

TOWNSHIP STAFF: Justin Smiley, Township Planner
John Weller, Planning Director
Ali Cleveland, Community Development Coordinator
Phil Yocum, Historic Consultant, Commonwealth Heritage Group

I. Call to Order – the meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the meeting was held virtually, via Zoom.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. New Business

- 1. Applicant: Raquel Iszueirdo**
Address: 1420 Woodbank Way
Historic Sites: 044 – Infirmary for Dumb Animals
Request: Recommendation to the Zoning Hearing Board for approval of the construction of a covered deck and swimming pool at the existing residence adjacent to the historic resource.

Mr. Smiley provided a brief overview of the project to construct a cover over an existing deck and construct a swimming pool. The Applicant is scheduled for a hearing before the Zoning Hearing Board later this month. The property is within 300 feet of historic site #044, Infirmary for Dumb Animals (consisting of house and barn). Commission members thanked the Applicant for submitting great materials for review.

Mr. Yocum approved of the proposed elevations and found no adverse impact on the historic resource provided a vegetative screening was planted along the fence to provide screening from the historic barn. Mr. Martin advised against planting bamboo as it is invasive.

Motion: To approve the proposed improvements for 1420 W. Woodbank Way for ZHB approval with the additional landscaping buffer recommended in Mr. Yocum’s review dated May 3, 2021.

Vote: Passed 5-0 (Kabli/Eckman)

- 2. Applicant: Emma Anthony**
Address: 545 W. Boot Road
Historic Sites: 146 – Hannah White Log House
Request: Recommendation to approve replacement of the existing deteriorated roof with a new cedar shingled roof on the historic resource.

Mr. Smiley introduced the project to replace the deteriorated roof on historic site #146. Ms. Anthony showed pictures of the deteriorated roof from various sides and angles. She said cooper strips would be added along the ridgeline of the roof to discourage moss growth. Commission members thanked Ms. Anthony for the materials submitted in support of the application and commended her for her restoration efforts.

Motion: To approve the replacement of the existing roof at 545 W. Boot Road with cedar shingles, as presented at the meeting.

Vote: Passed 5-0 (Eckman/Kabli)

Ms. Anthony gave permission for the pictures she submitted in her application packet to be used by Ms. Eckman. While the contractor was not scheduled to begin the roof replacement until August, Mr. Martin suggested the materials be purchased as soon as possible with prices rising.

IV. Approval of Minutes for April 12, 2021

Motion: To approve the minutes of April 12, 2021 (Kabli/McCormick)

Vote: Passed, 4-0-1 (Martin abstained)

V. Township Update:

Mr. Weller reported that he and Mimi Gleason met recently with PREIT representatives to discuss the Exton Mall. He said while PREIT is not ready to publicly present its plan, it does appear to be well thought out and noted an integration of trails and other assets as previously suggested by Township staff.

Members reported on the first ULI brainstorming meeting. Mr. McCormick said it was a good discussion on integrating the four quadrants and the need to reach out to local business owners and residents to see what they need, how they can be supported, and impart accurate information regarding high-density development and its impact on the community. Mr. Kabli stressed the need to monitor current vacancies at Main Street at Exton and other places and to be flexible, have a contingency plan, and keep stakeholders and residents in the loop. Mr. Martin pointed out the challenge of Exton being a zip code and residents suffering from survey fatigue.

VI. Historical Commission Concerns

Mr. Smiley advised that Julie Bauer found a number of people on Facebook Marketplace that were interested in the Witch's Cap. After discussion, the Commission was in unanimous agreement to let the Witch's Cap go to the first interested person (first come – first served).

There was discussion regarding future possibilities for the disposition of the Pennypacker House, including offering it back to the Church Farm School.

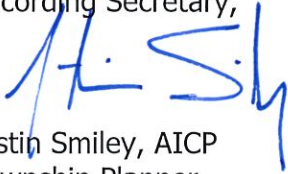
Mr. Kabli reported that the Thomas Mill and Miller's House have weathered well.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. (Eckman/Kabli)

Vote: Passed, 5-0

Recording Secretary,



Justin Smiley, AICP
Township Planner