

**WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
October 14, 2021**

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

TOWNSHIP STAFF: Justin Smiley, Township Planner

Phil Yocum, Historic Consultant, Commonwealth Heritage Group
Joshua Anderson, Board of Supervisors Liaison

I. Call to Order – the meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. The meeting was a hybrid meeting with participants attending both in person at the Township Building and on-line via Zoom.

II. Public Comment

Dan Campbell representing Chester County Historical Preservation Network (CCHPN) attended the meeting and announced he is the Township’s liaison to the CCHPN.

III. Approval of Minutes for June 14, 2021

There was some discussion regarding the Ship Road Couplet and the matter of it being constructed with or without the proposed Wawa.

Motion: To approve the minutes of September 13, 2021
(McCormick/Martin)

Vote: Passed, 5-0

IV. New Business

There was no new business.

V. Historical Commission Concerns:

Mr. Prendergast commended those who were involved with the Development Newsletter and said that it was well done, answering many questions that residents have and is a great resource to reference. The other members echoed Mr. Prendergast’s assessment of the Newsletter.

Ms. Bauer provided a status report on the Witch’s Cap and said that the initial arrangement fell through. However, a farmer from Virginia has interest and would like to make a home for it on his farm sometime in November.

Mr. Smiley updated the Commission on the PREIT/Mall public meeting and said the Township expects for PREIT to have a public meeting for the future of the Exton Mall in the coming months.

Mr. Martin brought up the need to start the search for additional members to the Commission to fill the vacancies. With many uncertainties in the coming months regarding the pandemic, discussion about having a full Commission is critical to make sure the duties of the Historical Commission are met. As it stands right now there is one vacancy on the Commission to make a seven-member board. There was discussion regarding whether the Commission can have members that do not live in the Township. Mr. Smiley said he will ask the Township Solicitor if the Commission is able to do this under the current Township code. Mr. Smiley also mentioned that the hybrid meetings are here to stay with the Commission having to attend meetings in-person. He said that may change in 2022 regarding attendance of members in-person or virtually and he will let them know when and if it changes. Lastly, there was discussion about how to attract potential members of the Commission regarding vacancies through the website and Township initiatives - like the historic resource survey update/Exton Crossroads Planning, advertising, social media outlets, newsletters or even reaching out to past preservation award winners.

There was a brief discussion regarding the condition of Site 134 (small log building) and Site 115 (Joseph Price House).

VI. Township Update

1. Historic Preservation Awards Discussion

Mr. Smiley announced that all awardees will be at the awards ceremony on the 8th, except for Diane Snyder. He described the room layout of the Ashbridge House and said the seating will be very informal. He also said that he would be testing the presentation over the few weeks with the facility's av system, which is to be used for the ceremony. He mentioned that the press release will be in the Daily Local News a week prior to the ceremony.

Mr. Smiley asked the Commission if the regularly scheduled Historical Commission Meeting could be cancelled for Nov. 8th due to the awards ceremony and no items on the agenda presently with the deadline Monday October 18th. The Commission made a motion for the meeting to be cancelled.

**Motion: To cancel the November 8th Historical Commission Meeting due to awards ceremony.
(Eckman/Bauer)**

Vote: Passed, 5-0

2. Exton Crossroads Historic Timeline Discussion

Mr. Smiley provided a historic timeline of the Exton Crossroads that he and Ali Cleveland put together for the Commission to review. He said once the review is

completed, and edits made the timeline will be presented as mounted timeline with photos/pictures in the lobby hallway at the Township Building leading to the Main Meeting Room on the 2nd floor. He noted that the timeline descriptions should be brief but detail the history of the event at that time. The Commission liked the idea and will provide comments/edits.

3. 2022 HC Meeting Schedule

Mr. Smiley presented the 2022 meeting schedule for the Historical Commission. He noted that the meetings will still be the second Monday of the month and start at 7:00PM. The October meeting will be the only date that will not be at the regular day and time due to Columbus Day. The Commission made a motion to accept the proposed meetings for 2022.

**Motion: To approve the proposed meetings for the 2022 Historical Commission as listed on Justin Smiley's memorandum dated October 8, 2021.
(McCormick/Bauer)**

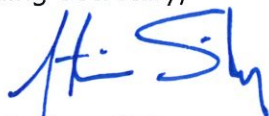
Vote: Passed, 5-0

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

**Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.
(McCormick/Bauer)**

Vote: Passed, 5-0

Recording Secretary,



Justin Smiley, AICP
Township Planner