

**EAST COVENTRY TOWNSHIP  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
August 8, 2007  
SCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Gail Brown (Chairman), Mary E. Brower (Vice Chairman), Phyllis Snyder (Member), Ann Keen (Member), Elaine Preston (Secretary), Lynn Coine (Member), Roy Kolb (Planning Commission Liaison, absent)

Meeting called to order 7:00 p.m.

**Minutes**

P. Snyder motioned to accept the minutes of July 25, 2007 with one spelling correction. M. Brower seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. 6-0-0

**Public Comment**

No comments.

**Subdivision and Land Development**

**Sprint/Spectrum Subdivision**

At the Monday, August 6, 2007 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the township solicitor proposed and the Board of Supervisors approved the Conditional Release for the Sprint Cell Tower. As read by the township solicitor, the Conditional Release includes all comments from the Historical Commission letter of January 11, 2007 as quoted from the Zoning Ordinance – Part 14, Sections 1401 (G) (9) (10), and 1401 (H). The Historical Commission looks forward to reviewing documents as specified applicable by the Zoning Ordinance.

**Wineberry Estates**

G. Brown received an e-mail inquiry from Glenn Kelczewski, Conver and Smith Engineering, inquiring about any comments the Historical Commission may have in regards to the existing historical resources or the proposed reuse of the existing stone as addressed by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). G. Brown responded we have not received the drawings for review. Although, the drawings were submitted to the Township on July 27, 2007, the Historical Commission does not receive them until the Thursday before the Planning Commissions second meeting of the month. We will review as soon as received. Mr. Kelczewski stated he would address at our September meeting.

Neuman/Ridge Field Estates

Waiver granted for 'No Historic Impact Study' required for the existing house on the property to be demolished – Board of Supervisors meeting August 6, 2007. No objection from the Historical Commission, property is a low priority Historic Resource.

Joseph McCann

Waivers granted. Historical Commission notes 'no impact' on adjacent Historical Resources as they are already compromised by other existing buildings on adjacent tract.

**Actions Items**

P. Snyder gave a progress report on the 2008 calendar sales. A total of thirty-nine (39) calendars sold for the amount of \$273.00. The Historical Commission has received a total of \$19.00 in donations. P. Snyder turned in a total of \$292.00 to the Township office and has a receipt for the transaction. The majority of the calendars sold were by M. Brower to her loyal customers.

P. Snyder and A. Keen have completed their assignment for the identification of properties listed on the previous historic resource survey. G. Brown to research the few properties to yet be identified. P. Snyder and A. Keen have further completed another assignment to identify historic resources identified by Mr. Harvey Kulp and submitted by A. Keen, i.e. – mills, school houses, etc.

E. Preston and L. Coine have completed their drive around assessment of Class III properties. They have only a few to be resolved.

**Discussion Items**

E. Preston distributed copies of the Historical Commission expenditures from January through July 2007. As of the end of July 2007 the Historical Commission has spent 33.4% of their budget. This does not include the \$100.00 recently donated to the Tow Path Park Eagle Scout Project. G. Brown reported we are in good shape to-date with monies to support upcoming projects. G. Brown also stated that it was announced at the August 6, 2007, Board of Supervisors meeting the 2008 budget process will begin as soon as the audit is completed – late August or early September.

G. Brown announced that the East Coventry Board of Supervisors approved the Historical Commission donation of \$100.00 to Mr. William Dougherty for his Eagle Scout Project. This donation was based on the extensive historical research and aspects of Mr. Dougherty's Schuylkill Navigation Company story boards to be erected in Towpath Park. Mr. Dougherty's project was approved by the Board of Supervisors.

G. Brown announced that Mr. Andrew Hoffman had received approval from the Board of Supervisors for his flag incinerator project. She believed he has acquired funding and donations to complete his project. The Historical Commission commends Mr. Hoffman

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on his decision to build his project at a secondary location. After completing research on his first location, Ellis Woods Revolutionary Cemetery, he decided the cemetery was 'hallowed ground' and chose an alternative location.

A meeting was held at Fricks Locks Village on August 7, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. to discuss combining efforts to save Fricks Locks. This meeting was a result of letters dated March 12, 2007 and July 9, 2007 from the Schuylkill River National & State Heritage Area and the East Coventry Supervisors recent vote to appropriate funds to hire a consultant to develop a business plan to address the restoration of the Frick's Lock Village. The meeting was attended by representatives of Exelon, the Schuylkill River National & State Heritage Area, Mr. Andrew Dinnimans (State Senator, District 19) offices, the East Coventry Township Public Works Department, the East Coventry Township Police Department, the East Coventry Board of Supervisors (4), the East Coventry Historical Commission (6), and interested citizens (3). Several items were discussed toward formulating a plan for the restoration of Fricks Locks. Mr. Zwinkl, Executive Director of the Schuylkill River National & State Heritage Area organized and assigned tasks to various representatives to be presented, reviewed, and discussed at a follow-up meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 2, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. at the East Coventry Township building. The Historical Commission was specifically tasked with reviewing all previous studies and presenting a priority listing

**Additional Items**

Discussion was opened in regard to acquiring a 'PIN' number for access to the Chester County Archives for deed research. It was noted that one of our neighboring township Historical Commissions utilize the Townships "PIN" number to alleviate the need for two (2) \$50.00 fees for registration. The ability to access information for deed research on the internet would be both cost and time effective. E. Preston to inquire about the Township's 'PIN' number and whether the Township will be agreeable to allowing the Historical Commission to utilize their 'PIN' number for access.

G. Brown stated that M. Brower had called her the previous afternoon to notify the Historical Commission that she had received a telephone call from a resident of Parker Ford that the Township Administrative Office telephone number is incorrect on the 2008 calendar. The number listed is in fact this resident's number. It was the decision of the Historical Commission to take immediate action to alleviate this error. P. Snyder and A. Keen are to correct the calendars of Kolb's Grocery, L. Coine is to correct the calendars at Parkerford Station and the Coventry Animal Hospital, E. Preston is to correct the calendars at the Township Building, M. Brower is to inform persons to whom she has sold calendars of the error, G. Brown is to notify the Board of Supervisors and write a letter defining our corrective measures and apologizing for the inconvenience to the citizen with the incorrectly listed telephone number.

P. Snyder is to ask Bonnie Frisco if we have had any responses from the advertisement the Historical Commission had placed in the township newsletter or the poster's that have been placed around the Township. To date we have received no information as to

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inquiries in relation to these advertisements. Membership was further discussed. G. Brown stated we may wish to request the minimum membership addressed in Article XII of the Zoning Ordinance be reduced from five (5) members to three (3) members. This would have to be done immediately as the Board of Supervisors is completing their Zoning Ordinance review. Lengthy discussion followed.

P. Snyder made a motion to change the Historical Commission minimum membership from five (5) to three (3).

The motion was not seconded, thus died.

The Historical Commission members agreed to individually thank Tim Roland, Rose Marie Miller, and Peter Marshall when we see them next for being instrumental in organizing the Fricks Locks meeting.

G. Brown handed-out and asked the Historical Commission to review the Ordinance that Mr. Peter Marshall retrieved from State College, PA and be prepared to discuss at our next meeting

G. Brown had sent out information on the PHMC Historical Societies Leadership Forums for the Fall 2007, November 16, 2007 at the Lehigh Valley Heritage Museum, Allentown. She stated she would like for the members who were unable to attend the Spring Forum to have first opportunity to attend this session. Members were requested to respond as soon as possible as space fills up quickly.

A copy of the Architectural and Historical Documentation of the Fricks Lock District, John Milner Report, May 1987 and a copy the Fricks Locks Historic District Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, May, 2002 will be distributed to all Historical Commission Members.

Discussion was opened concerning a Township Letterhead for the Historical Commission. As we are only four months away from re-election of officers, it was decided to determine whether the township has a generic letterhead for letters, memorandum, and faxes which may be utilized by the Historical Commission. E. Preston to explore this possibility.

The necessity for at least some of the Historical Commission members to become proficient with 'grant writing' is another of our many priorities. We should continue to seek new membership with this expertise; but in the interim, we should explore attending classes toward this end. All members to please consider.

### **Adjournment**

E. Preston motioned to adjourn

P. Snyder seconded the motion

The motion was approved unanimously.

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine C. Preston  
Secretary  
East Coventry Township Historical Commission