

Willistown Township Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes, *amended 3/8/22*

February 1, 2022

7:00PM

Willistown Township Building 688 Sugartown Rd.

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00PM by Warren Claytor, Chairman.

In attendance: Warren Claytor, Chairman; Bart VanValkenburgh; Greg Prichard; David Hopkins; Marie (Mimi) Quinn-Johnson and Bob Smiley, Director of Planning and Zoning. Not in attendance: Rick Mosback

The first order of business was a re-organization of the Commission. Bart VanValkenburgh was elected Chairman, Warren Claytor was elected Vice-Chairman, Marie Quinn-Johnson was elected Secretary.

- I. Proposed Work at 958 Plumsock Road, Parcel 54-7-32 and found on Page 197 of AofQ. The property owner, Samantha Lucas appeared with James Douglas and Christina Carter of John Milner Architects, Chadds Ford Pa. The property is surrounded by Okehocking Preserve. They showed a map of the historic location of the house, barn and icehouse. They also provided photos taken in the past of the house, photos of the foundation for the icehouse, photos of the existing house, proposed site plan and a rendering of proposed house. The owner wants to preserve the remains of the original buildings. The owner has cleared out by hand the vegetation at the old foundation. They plan to reuse the same stones as the original house in the proposed house. They also showed the location of the driveway due to steep slopes and the location of the well. They plan to reinforce the grass off the driveway in order to park more cars, the driveway will be gravel. The owners contacted a librarian for the Episcopal Church who researched the property and found it was once owned by an African-American church and operated as a summer camp for children from the city. The barn will use the existing barn foundation. Bob Smiley explained the next steps to take with the

- Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board regarding getting a variance. Chester Valley Engineers is working on it.
- II. Proposed signage at Princeton Village near Historic Cox House Parcel/Spring House. It was decided there were no issues with the proposed sign.
 - III. Demo Permit for HC review. UPI# is: 54-1P-54. This is a house at 10 1st Ave. It is not historic as it was built in the 1940's. It is therefore a non-issue, not under our purview. It was suggested by Greg Prichard that the owners look for any historic artifacts on the property.
 - IV. Bus Tour – This will be an informational tour of historic sites around the township. It will be on July 7, 2022 and will be backed up by the Parks and Recreation Commission. There will be signage and brochures. 2 buses will make 30 minute laps around the township. We will need research on the Historic Districts and there will be tasks assigned to the Commission Members. At the next meeting we will divvy up the tasks. We will run 6 busloads from 4:30-8:00PM. We will provide water as refreshments.
 - V. Comprehensive Plan – Bob Smiley will ask John Gaadt about the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission still needs to give some input.
 - VI. Historic Resources Candidates, maps etc. – Bart made a spreadsheet updating the Historic Resources. He, Ed Tiernan and Bob Smiley will meet at the Township Building to Review and Provide Input.
 - VII. Old Business – We continue to discuss 1) adding additional resources to the list. Railroad history and Railroad Abutments were mentioned. The members are tasked with bringing to the Commission's attention other structures which could be newer, i.e built after 1883, that have some historic significance. 2) Radnor Hunt – Adding the stables as an Historic Resource. 3) Greentree District Investigation – Bart is doing a draft to send to Greg of a written history of the historical buildings. 4) Certified Local Government. Greg recommended that CLG be part of the Comprehensive Plan. This was Cory Kergerise's project who oversaw the Eastern section of the state. A replacement for Cory's position was to start February 1, 2022. Greg mentioned that Lower Merion Township used a grant for a viewshed study of historic properties.
 - VIII. The Historic Commission received two applications for membership from Sharon H Sukonick and Jody Vandegrift. Both are longtime

residents of the township. Sharon brings her knowledge and experience working at a large civil engineer firm and Jody brings her knowledge and experience as a realtor. Both are expected to be approved by the Supervisors at the February 14th meeting.

Next Meeting March 1, 2022 at the Willistown Township Building.

Respectfully submitted by Marie Quinn-Johnson, Secretary