

The regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township **HISTORICAL COMMISSION** for October 2021 was held tonight. Members present: Stephen Conrad, Geoff Shulik, Karen Shulik, Mary Washington, Joyce Werkman, Thomas Wieckowski. Guests present: Joe Zeike. Staff present: Brian Hinson, Director of Parks and Recreation.

1. **Call to Order** – Mr. Wieckowski called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. **Acceptance of Minutes** – Mr. Conrad made a motion for the minutes of the September 9, 2021 meeting to be approved. Ms. Werkman seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.
3. **Review of Financial Report** – A financial report for July was given by Mr. Wieckowski (see attached.)
  - A. Donations at the Open House – No report was given due to the missing key to the donation box. Ms. Werkman will show Mr. Wieckowski where the key is and how to access the box.
4. **Committee Reports**
  - A. Education – Mr. Wieckowski said that Mr. Jones was working on setting up a lecturer for February, but the person is only able to participate via Zoom. He asked the Commission if they would approve of the lecturer if they could only participate online. A conversation ensued about hybrid style lectures. The Commission tabled the decision for another month or two.
  - B. Preservation – None.
  - C. Museum – Mrs. Washington shared that the new School Superintendent is a Cheltenham Alumni and may be willing to share information about the museum with the schools and students. Mr. Wieckowski will contact the Superintendent.
5. **Chairman's Report**
  - A. Report on Wall House Museum Reopening – Mr. Wieckowski thanked the Open House Committee for all their hard work to help make the Grand Reopening a tremendous success. He said several guests told him that they had not known about the Museum even though they resided in Cheltenham Township. Mr. Wieckowski suggested that they provide more materials and communication with the community and the schools.
  - B. Update and review on Repairs – Mr. Wieckowski inquired about the ceiling. Mr. Hinson said that he had not heard back from Maintenance and would follow up. Mr. Conrad asked if the contractor could also look at the damaged window on the spring house.
  - C. Offer of Grant Writing – None.
6. **Staff Report** – Mr. Hinson reported that the Friends Group has received several more donations. Both the Westbrook Rockhill Foundation and the Sears Family gave a \$50.00 donation each.

The American Alliance of Museums mailed a membership renewal application to the Commission. Mr. Hinson said that they no longer send out magazines, only email blasts, which are very infrequent and sparse. Mr. Conrad asked about the benefits of membership. Mr Hinson will scan and email the renewal form to the Commission Members for review.
7. **Old Business** – Mr. Conrad asked about Mr. Goodman and getting access to Waverly Road. Mr. Wieckowski said he would send another email to the contact that he has for that property.
8. **New Business** – Mr. Wieckowski asked for a volunteer to staff the October 24<sup>th</sup> Open House. Mr. Conrad volunteered. Mr. Conrad also mentioned that he has a two-hour tour scheduled for October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Wieckowski offered to staff the November Open House.

The Questors are coming for a tour on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mrs. Washington will help, but Mr. Wieckowski would like to have as many people involved in the tour as possible so they can share their knowledge on specific areas of the house and its exhibits.

Mr. Wieckowski asked Mrs. Shulik to consider becoming an expert on the Langsdorf Doll House. The museum needs more people available to give tours. If more Commission members can become more familiar with the museum, they can assist with the tours.

Mr. Wieckowski asked Mr. Hinson to explain the status of the Rowland Community Center. Mr. Hinson explained that both La Mott and Rowland Community Centers will be closed during the winter due to boiler issues and will hopefully reopen in the spring of 2022. Mr. Wieckowski inquired about the rumor that the centers were for sale. Mr. Hinson said he is not aware of the centers being up for sale. Mr. Wieckowski explained that the Museum has artifacts stored on the third floor at Rowland Community Center that should be inventoried and possibly moved. Mr. Hinson agreed to meet with Mr. Wieckowski at the center for the inventory.

Mr. Wieckowski asked the Commission for their input on the possibility that the Old York Road Garden Club will once again ask to decorate for the holidays. He wanted to know how their recent decorations compare to previous decorations prior to the pandemic. A discussion ensued. If the Commission limits what the garden club can decorate, they may not be able to compete in their annual contest, and may not decorate the house at all. Mr. Wieckowski offered to reach out to the club to discuss the topic in more detail.

Mr. Wieckowski asked for a motion to suspend the December open house. Ms. Werkman made a motion which Mrs. Washington seconded. The motion passed unanimously that there will not be an open house on the fourth Sunday in December.

Mr. Wieckowski explained the difficulties they experienced with the three interns the Commission has used over the years and stated that only one of the three had been of assistance. He asked the Commission for their input on whether or not they should use an intern in the future. A conversation continued. The commission will permit the use of a supervised intern in the future.

Mr. Wieckowski will work with Mr. Esposito and Mr. Hinson to get information about the Richard Wall House Museum placed in the Philadelphia Inquirer Suburban Museum Guide.

Mr. Conrad asked if there was a copy of the Historic Construction Report on the Richard Wall House because they may be able to use the report as a resource in the future. Mr. Wieckowski has a fragile copy of the report needs to be preserved. He would like to digitalize the report. Mrs. Washington is going to look through her files for a better copy of the report.

9. ***Moment in History*** – None.

10. ***Good and Welfare*** – Mr. Conrad asked about the articles he turned in for the displays. He wanted to know if there were copies of the articles so that they could be used in the Wall Paper newsletter. Mr. Wieckowski informed the Commission that he is working on a Wall Paper and he will submit it to the Executive Committee for review. He hopes to have a final copy for the Questors' tour on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mrs. Washington wanted to state on record that she was completely embarrassed, shocked and upset that she did not make the 1:00 p.m. opening. She appreciates the dedication, the Jack Washington History Gallery, and everything that has been done.

11. ***Adjournment*** – Mrs. Washington made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Conrad seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

  
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Robert Zienkowski  
Township Manager

Submitted by: Kelly Rebitz



