

MINUTES

THORNBURY TOWNSHIP (CHESTER COUNTY) HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Present: Anne Dzamba, Chris Lang (chair), Tom Spackman, Kris Walker, Dick Webster.

Organizational Meeting. The commission chose to retain its officers from 2010 (Chris Lang, chair; Anne Dzamba, vice-chair; Dick Webster, secretary) and to continue to meet the second Wednesday of each month.

1. Approval of Minutes

The commission approved the minutes of December 2, 2010 with two minor changes.

2. Squire Cheyney House

A. Tom Spackman reported the township attorney has the draft deed from Orleans for the 16 ac conservation lot and the title may pass to the township within 30 days

B. Chris Lang read the highlights of Greg Huber's December report on the Cheyney Barn. He will send a copy to each Supervisor.

C. The HPC discussed its great concern about protection of the historic Cheyney buildings, and past inaction. (We noted theft of old doors of the barn forebay). To insure future protection we passed unanimously the following:

Motion: The Historic Preservation Commission requests that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the township manager to protect the historic structures, in particular to monitor the Squire Cheyney Farm buildings weekly and issue a monthly report on those visits.

2. Take prompt or immediate action on threats to the buildings.

3. Erect a chain-link fence and No-Trespassing, and Hazard signs around the barn to prevent access. (

4. Indicate when it will presents its Action Plan for Use and Protection, (, ref. prior recommendations of the Historic Preservation Commission.)

3. Oral History Project

The commission discussed the oral history interview of Tom Spackman, put on DVD and made suggestions for the next interviews. The next ones planned are to be with Peter Galantino and Ellen Manganaro, two on one day. Tom and Chris will meet with Jim Mobile, media person at West Chester Senior Center, who is assisting us, to review and revise the filming, e.g. it was much too close in the first trial made.

4. Cheyney University New Science Building Sign Variance –

The Commission review drawings, photos and correspondence on the zoning variance granted by the ZHB on Dec. 1 (a 130 SF Bldg. ID sign and two 230 SF Univ. ID signs). As a result of our opposition to this seemingly blanket variance we passed the following:

Motion: The Historic Preservation Commission supports the Board of Supervisors for its opposition to the variance for the proposed signs on the Cheyney University New Science Building. The variance sets a very bad precedent, especially in a residential district. The commission opposes a lighted sign. It would contribute to light pollution and negatively affect the historical environment of the neighborhood, including its historic resources. The sign is too high, too large, and inappropriately located, disturbing important historic viewsheds. The TT HPC would like to work with the Board on this issue. The commission asks the Supervisors to consult with it before making a decision;

5. Articles for *The Gander*

The commission praised Tom Spackman's article in the last issue of *The Gander*, the township's newsletter. Anne Dzamba will write on the Thornbury Train Station for the next issue of *The Gander*. Copy due by beginning of March.

6. Proposed Massive Office Addition to the Darlington House

After discussion of the proposed addition and alterations to the Distinctive Dentistry in the 18th c. Darlington House at the southeast corner of Routes 202 and 926, the commission passed this resolution.

Motion: Plans that the Historic Preservation Commission has seen online appear to be inappropriate for the historic Darlington House on this site. (See 2009-2010 Historic Resources Survey.) The owners/developers must present their final building plans to the Historic Preservation Commission before any approvals or permits are given by the Board of Supervisors or the Zoning Officer. The commission requests a status report on this project from the Township Manager.

7. Attendance at Board of Supervisors Meetings

The members agreed to rotate monthly to have an HPC member attend the Supervisor's Meetings each month and to give the report on our activities, concerns, and recommendations.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 9, 2011.

Richard J. Webster
Commission Secretary