

**APPROVED MINUTES  
THORNBURY TOWNSHIP (CHESTER COUNTY)  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING  
Wednesday, September 8, 2010**

Present: Chris Lang (chair), Molly Morrison, Tom Spackman, Kris Walker, Dick Webster.  
Guest Presenter: Robert MacDonnell, Pennsbury Township

1. Approval of Minutes

The Commission approved the minutes of June 9, 2010. There was no meeting in July due to sickness preventing a quorum, and there was no meeting scheduled in August.

2. Presentation

Robert MacDonnell, chairman of Pennsbury Township's Historical Commission, shared with the Thornbury HPC its experience in developing a stronger historic preservation ordinance subsequent to adopting its Historic Resource Survey. Pennsbury Township's zoning code now gives the Board of Supervisors the power to deny a demolition permit and prohibits the demolition of class 1 and class 2 historic buildings unless the Historical Commission approves of the demolition. Mr. MacDonnell discussed openly and candidly the process leading to the approval of the stronger measures. Bob admitted that one gray area remains: renovations to historic resources. The Pennsbury Board of Supervisors has not yet passed an ordinance dealing with that issue. The challenge is to develop an educational program, especially for recent owners of historic properties, to maintain awareness of the ordinance. Their solicitor, Tom Oeste, wrote the ordinance.

3. Review of Plans

Chris Lang will ask the Township Manager to inform the owners of the dental office at Routes 202 and 926, who are advertising a large addition that they need to send to the HPC their plans for an addition. Mr. Lang pointed out that the owners had met with the HPC to discuss sketch plans previously and the HPC had sent them written comments with the expectation that they would return when they plan were specific as part of a formal application.

4. *The Gander*

The Commission agreed that it will submit an article on a township historic resource for inclusion in each edition of *The Gander*, the township's newsletter. At its October meeting the HPC will select the resources to be included in next year's editions.

5. Oral History Project

Chris Lang and Tom Spackman have checked out the Senior Center's facilities and equipment for recording oral histories and interviews, such as we want to do with selected township residents. Tom Spackman will be the first interviewee. Kris Walker will revise and distribute questions for the final script while Chris Lang continues to develop the list of interviewees, and the priority. The HPC will start interviews after our October meeting.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, 2010.

Richard J. Webster  
Commission Secretary