

D R A F T
MINUTES
THORNBURY TOWNSHIP (CHESTER COUNTY)
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, February 3, 2010

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

1. Approval of Minutes

The commission corrected the minutes of January 5, 2010, to read: "It changed its meeting times to the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 P.M." The commission approved the minutes as corrected.

2. Historic Resource Survey

-Kris Walker distributed a proposed sign-in sheet for using historic resource surveys and related materials. Members gave feedback. Walker and Lang will meet with the township office staff to discuss filing and policies and bring back to HPC next meeting.

-Chris Lang distributed 3 CD disks to each member containing the Historic Resources Survey forms, the VPP notebooks (including research data) and Jane Dorchester's November 2009 presentation.

-The Chairman gave out assignments for proof reading the Survey forms. We discussed types of look for in our notes from our proofreading. The Commission members agreed to read their assigned surveys before the March 10 meeting, so at this meeting the commission can discuss how to deal with errors, omissions, supplemental data and materials, and additional content regarding the resources' cultural history.

3. Cheyney Farmstead

-Lang reported Orleans had finally cleared the house basement, but not the yard.

-Spackman told the HPC that Orleans had not met with him and Board Chair Gast, but they seemed to be indicating a desire to go to closing with the township before too long. There may be legal issues holding this up. The HPC discussed the lack of progress on the township taking title or protecting the barn. As a result, the HPC passed the following motion unanimously.

Motion : Whereas the Cheyney Barn, a National Register building and an important township cultural resource, is structurally unsound with portions in danger of imminent failure, the HPC strongly recommends that the Board of Supervisors now take action, including spending up to \$150,000 in repairs, to secure, stabilize, and protect the building in order to prevent its collapse and avoid potential safety and liability issues.

4. Oral Histories

The Commission discussed in 2010 conducting oral histories form current and former residents. We noted some candidates, the need to find equipment, a place and determine format for interviews. Tom Spackman said the West Chester Senior Center id getting set up for this, so he will find out about their resources. Dick Webster has a contact for format and Kris Walker will participate on setting up our approach.

Being no other current business, the meeting adjourned.

Richard J. Webster, HPC Secretary