

THORNBURY TOWNSHIP (CHESTER COUNTY)
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES - Draft
Wednesday, April 13, 2011

Members present: Chris Lang, Chair, Molly Morrison, Tom Spackman, Kris Walker
Consultant: Preservation Architect, Dale Frens.

1. Approval of Minutes - The Minutes for March 9, 2010 were approved as submitted by Dick Webster, Secretary.
2. Board Work Session - Chair Lang reported on the discussion from the April 5 Work Session of the Township Supervisors that he attended. The Barn Stabilization was on the agenda. The general future of the Squire Cheyney Barn was finally discussed at the end of the meeting. There was a meandering discussion and a polling of the Supervisors' feelings about what to do with the property. At the end, the Supervisors requested that the HPC provide them a current recommendation on a plan for the future role of the barn. Lang pointed out that the HPC has provided recommendations to them over the past several years. In addition, Mr. Lang also reported that there remain lot subdivision issues to be resolved with Orleans re the deed for 16 ac. Cheyney Conservation Lot before the Township accepts the deed. Lastly, per the Township Manager, no action has been taken on the recommended and approved security measures for the property based on the rationale that Township does not have title at present.
3. Cheyney Barn Options - Dale Frens, Preservation Architect, who has done several studies on the Cheyney Farm structures for the Township, submitted to the HPC members updated copies of the recommended steps for the preservation of the Squire Cheyney Barn. Mr. Frens had initially made these recommendations to the HPC and Supervisors about two years ago. There were two options; the first, managing the Barn as a created, stabilized ruin; the second restoring the Barn as a period structure. Both options assume that the Township would retain ownership and management of the structure. The Ruin - Option 1 has a budget of \$309,000; the Period Restoration - Option Two, a budget of \$616,000. Mr. Frens also reported that the Barn would continue to deteriorate and that the southeastern corner of the structure is in danger of collapsing, esp. during bad weather. The Commission asked Mr. Frens to come back to them with a proposal for the cost to do the minimal amount of stabilization on the most vulnerable section of the Barn as interim step, while the Township determines a final plan for the historic structures.
4. Next Steps for Preservation - The Commission members determined that the next most productive step would be to engage in a planning process that involves a variety of stakeholders and interested parties (i.e., Thornbury residents, Thornbury Delco Supervisors and/or Commission members, representatives from Cheyney Univ., "Pete" the farmer who leases land from the Township, Cheyney Family Assoc., Scheerer/MacIlhenny) beyond just the Supervisors and Commission members to develop a strategic plan for the long term use of the "Squire Cheyney Historic Farm Area." The HPC will recommend such a plan to the Board as soon as it can develop specifics, and will ask for Board support for this action.
5. Oral History Project – Next Step interview Pete Galantino, Ellen Manganaro.
6. Articles for Thornbury Gander, newsletter: Next due June 1. Green Shadows, Pete Galantino

NEXT MEETING: Wed., May 11, 2011 @ 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Kris Walker