

**Approved MINUTES
THORNBURY TOWNSHIP (CHESCO)
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, February 2, 2009**

Members Present:

Chris Lang - Chairman, Don Macpherson, Molly Morrison, Tom Spackman, Richard Webster,
Eric Burling participated by phone

1. Minutes Approval: Postponed until next month's meeting.
2. Historic Resources Survey Project:
 - a. The Chairman noted he had forwarded to the Commission members Dorchester's Jan. Report.
 - b. Lang described the submittal Jan. 23 of the Cheyney Property National Register Nomination written by Jane Dorchester, Arch. Historian. Lang distributed copies to the HPC. . The goal is PHMC review and decision in April. Jane D. will do the Dallett nomination subsequently.
 - c. Classification of the Resources – The Commission decided upon the definitions of four classes of historic structures in Thornbury Twp. This will be used in County GIS mapping of historic resources. Class I is on National Register or determined eligible. Class is considered by Thornbury to be of state or Federal significance. The HPC agreed Class IV is over 50 yrs old, but has a minimum of significance.
 - d. The Commission agreed for Chris Lang to provide to Jane Dorchester a list of 15 sites selected to have her do Property Research.
3. Cheyney Farmstead:
 - a. Chris Lang informed HPC that when he visited the property this afternoon the house was not totally locked, not was a chain or gate or No Trespassing sign on drive. The house and barn were cleared out of trash. Unfortunately, several out-buildings had been bulldozed. We asked who had approved this. We question what the Board is doing about these matters, and to protect the property. Tom Spackman will ask the Amish contractor who repairs its barn to visit and advise on the Cheyney barn.
 - b. Lang described the Frens and Frens barn options proposal. The HPC asked why to spend so much money on this when the township has not decided yet what it will do with the barn. The HPC recommends converting task 2 on the barn, to making Existing Conditions dwgs. of the house.
 - c. The Commission discussed what the final disposition of the property should be. The HPC agreed the goal is the maximum preservation of the house and barn. The HPC concluded the best way to do this is to subdivide the property and sell it with conditions to one or two private owners. Spackman suggests leasing it. Lang mentioned the Maryland DNR Program that leases historic structures to private owners. The HPC does not recommend the Township fix up and retain the house, due to expense and lack of use. For the barn the HPC's first choice is not to partially demolish it and save as a ruin. The HPC agreed it would meet with the Board, as requested before its Feb. 17 meeting, to give its recommendation on the property and to discuss it fully. The HPC's position is that the Township should professionally market and offer to sell or lease the property to see what revenue, interest and degree of preservation this could achieve.
5. Cheyney Marker:

In light of information gathered for the Nat'l Register nomination Lang asked whether the marker text should be slightly expanded. Morison and Webster will consider. Deadline for marker expenditure is June.

Meeting was adjourned,
Respectfully, Chris Lang, Chair