

**THORNBURY TOWNSHIP (CHESCO)
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES of MEETING, Monday, May 4, 2009**

Members Present: Chris Lang - Chairman, Dr. Anne Dzamba, Don Macpherson, Dr. Richard Webster, Molly Morrison.

1. Minutes: April 6, 2009 meeting minutes approved unanimously with minor corrections.

2. Historic Resources Survey Project:

Activity for April summarized in Dorchester's month report. Activity limited due to Cheyney National Register nomination work. On April 22, Dorchester submitted Inventory with classifications to County Preservation Office for GIS mapping.

3. Ridley Park Colonial Plantation Visit:

Chris Lang distributed a one page summary report of April 7 meeting with Ridley Park officials and Rick Miller of TT Delco Historic Comm. Colonial Plantation set up as 501c3 non-profit, has a \$188,000 annual budget, 2/3 for education. 3 full time employees with payroll over \$100,000. Funding is drying up.

4. Cheyney Farmstead:

a. Chris Lang distributed copies of reduced scale plan of the boundary of the Conservation Lot from approved Orleans plan. The HPC discussed how the north end panhandle next to Justice Way was away from the farmstead. In addition, we noted wetland area and large storm-water basin that would be extraneous from farmstead site and usage. We felt this area should be subdivided off to allow and maintained by the HOA in order for a private interest to consider buying the farmstead. The farmstead acreage should remain over 10 acres to allow for Act 319 agricultural land taxation. The HPC feels the Board should be acting on this now.

b. Board Request for Action Plans at May 12 work session – The bulk of the meeting was spent discussing the steps of an action plan to recommend to the Board. (The HPC had a general discussion only work session on this request on April 28.) The Commission asked Chris Lang to reduce the points discussed to a draft to be circulated to the Commission for comment. A key point was for the township to not put money into barn repairs until a use was decided upon and to first offer the barn with restrictions to a private owner. This action plan for marketing the farmstead to a private owner, with conditions, restrictions and easements, will be presented to the Board on May 12. See action plan attached below. Eric Burling who at the work session and said that he would prepare a plan for public retention of the historic structures, was not at this meeting and did not send a draft for the meeting, so at this point the public ownership concept basically is represented by the points we presented on March 3 to the Board.

4. Squire Cheyney Marker: Dick Webster presented final text draft. The HPC requested Webster proceed to contract for the marker to be made before June, with approval of a final scale layout required before production. Chris Lang reminded that we must purchase before June due to grant funding deadline.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Lang, Chair