

**THORNBURY TOWNSHIP (CHESTER COUNTY)**  
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**  
**January 20, 2021**

Present: Fran Ley, Michele Thackrah (chair), Nancy Needham, Randell Spackman, Judy Lizza (township manager) Adam Travetti

The commission met virtually this month.

- 1. Minutes.** The Minutes for November 2020 were approved.
- 2. CCHPN Virtual Presentation.** Kathleen Hood, member of the education committee of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network presented the organization's structure, mission and accomplishments.
- 3. Aqua Revised Proposal.** The committee determined that a site visit was a necessary precursor to any recommendations by the HPC.
- 4. Agenda for February Homeowners Meeting.** The Committee decided to move the date from February 13 to February 25 due to scheduling conflicts, and designed an agenda for the meeting.
- 5. Next meeting.** The next meeting after the Homeowners Meeting will be March 17, 2021.

**SUMMARY FOR MEMBERS**  
**THORNBURY TOWNSHIP (CHESTER COUNTY)**  
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

**January 20, 2021**

- 1. CCHPN Virtual Presentation.** Kathleen Hood, member of the education committee of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network presented the organization's structure, mission and accomplishments. Ms. Hood noted that most townships have a representative on the CCHPN and invited the HPC to join if anyone is interested. There is a fee for membership. She also noted that the CCHPN , in collaboration with Karen Marshall, has provided advice and counsel to Michele Thackrak on the Huntsman Lane issue before the HPC. SSHPN works with 500 volunteers and 73 municipalities. Her full presentation is available from Michele Thackrak. Ms. Hood also showed a video, Savingplaces.org developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation (savingplaces.org) which lays out the argument for why historic places matter.
- 2. Aqua Revised Proposal.** Michele Thackrak had provided the members with emails and drawings provided by Saad Yousif of Aqua, and she noted the proposed shed was, in her view, unacceptable. Randell Spackman discussed the unfortunate relationship between the viewshed for the Sandy Hill battlefield and the proposed Aqua expansion. He also noted that the generator was outside the easement. According to Judy Lizza, Mr. Yousif had said underground facilities would be "cost prohibitive." Fran Ley said there were no cost estimates provided by Aqua, so the HPC has no way to judge this. Judy Lizza said Mr. Yousif is anxious to cooperate with the committee , especially since Aqua has never tried to do this kind of work on a protected site, and that he had asked whether a site visit might make sense. The committee agreed that a site visit, marking out the easement area, was a necessary precursor to any recommendations by the HPC. Nancy Needham asked whether there might be a way to have Aqua provide a viewing platform in conjunction with their proposed equipment. Randell Spackman said he felt only an underground site made sense, and he also suggested the Aqua site might be moved uphill so it did not interfere with the viewshed. The committee agreed these issues can be further discussed during or after the site visit.
- 3. Agenda for February Homeowners Meeting.** The Committee decided to move the date from February 13 to February 25 due to scheduling conflicts, and designed an agenda for the meeting. It was agreed that the purpose was to have a fun virtual event that would make residents aware of the HPC and to see it as an interesting and available resource rather than a regulatory hinderance of some sort. The meeting will be chaired by Michele Thackrah and members will be visible on Zoom. The agenda will start with Michele outlining what the HPC does and how it can be useful for homeowners. She will give a brief demonstration of the interactive map so homeowners can see how it works and how they can track their property. This will be followed by a presentation by Adam Travetti reviewing what he did to his historic property. The purpose of his presentation will be to show that you can exercise imagination and creativity working with an historic property and still be within HPC guidelines. The final presentation will be by Randell

Spackman in full regalia outlining what Thornbury Farm is about, the Sandy Hill battlefield, upcoming re-enactments and other items of interest. Michele Thackrah will encourage questions throughout. In addition, Judy Lizza will send a reminder to historic homeowners, request questions in advance if they have any, and try to determine if anyone will attend aside from HPC members and friends. The Committee decided to call the event, "Why Old Places Matter," which is a tip of the hat to the National Trust.

- 4. Other items.** Judy Lizza noted that ideas about the proposed veterans' memorial need to be given to Parks and Recreation. She also noted that Cheney University will be proposing new structures/facilities because they need to spend state grant they received. There was a brief discussion about the fact that Cheney only has 628 students up from 250 and perhaps the whole complex will someday need to be transformed into something else. The question that will be asked is whether the proposed facilities are for commercial (a no no) or educational use. The Cheney question will come before the planning commission in February if HPC members are interested.