



## Workshop Notes: Historical Commission

31<sup>st</sup> January 2015

The re-scheduled regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission Committee was held on January 31, 2015, 9:15am at the Schoonover Municipal Building with Danny Younger presiding.

Historical Commission Board Members: Chairperson Danny Younger, Treasurer Steve Kulick, and Board Member Kim Williams

Township Staff: Supervisor Annette Atkinson, Supervisor Mike Dwyer, Supervisor Mitchell Marcus, and Liaison and Recording Secretary Amy Majani

Meeting was called to order at 9:15 am by Danny Younger, seconded by Steve Kulick

Danny motioned to accept the minutes the 12/29/2014 meeting, seconded by Kim Williams

### Correspondence:

- William Rogers contacted Danny on Facebook, looking for information on John R Miller, a blacksmith that settled in the area and fought in the civil war. Danny will look into the inquiry and get back to Rogers

### Quorum

- Kim Williams inquired if the Historical Commission meeting lacked a quorum, if Supervisors can approve funding to move projects forward. Mike Dwyer responded that the commission makes recommendations to the Supervisors; it is up to the Supervisors how the funds are expended.

### Attendance

Discussion about increasing membership, and township attendance policy for committees. Annette asked that someone call Bob and Diane Huffman about their attendance, and update them. Amy will email 2014 attendance list to all members

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### Lecture Series

- Danny met with the ESU's chair of the History Department, Martin Wilson, to discuss an opportunity for graduate students to participate in lecture series hosted by the Historical commission.
  - Kim Williams noted that one of Wilson's students had done a presentation on the history of the Tom X Range. Kim suggested requesting that the student make a presentation during one of the lecture series.
  - Annette: The township could also talk to current owners of property, and the Tom X pub owners for more information. The Historical Commission could reach out to business owners of historical properties, and offer to do the research on the background of the properties, and write a piece for each property.
- Members agreed that each commission member can make a presentation/lecture on a topic of their choice.
  - Steve present something on the schools
  - Kim perhaps works with William Rogers on a lecture about trains.
- As for lecture topics, Kim suggested having a lecture on the Flood of 1955, since 2015 is the 60<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary. Kim suggested contacting Mary Schaefer as a possible speaker.

- Danny spoke to Don Klein (discovered the Shawnee-Minisink Site) who recommended Russell Kramer for a presentation on 'Evolution of Stone Tools'. Danny will meet with Russell and Don Klein for further discussion.
- Danny suggested the Lecture series be held at the Banquet hall.
- No consensus was reached as to the frequency of the lectures nor the day of the week, but quarterly presentations were suggested..

### **Chairperson's Presentation.**

- Key Projects for 2015
  - Calendar Project
- Passport to History
- Photography project of Township Historical Sites within National Park Service scheduled for destruction.
- Amy will upload the presentation on the Historical Commission to the township website
- Amy and Steve will work on updating, and merging the Photo Archive Kim had created to the Historical Commission page on the township's website

### **National Historic Properties Management Plan**

- Danny will keep the commission updated on the Dates and time of the Public Hearing for the Park Service Historical properties Management plan and its release
- Annette suggested that Danny inquire if township and its residents can keep parts of the properties being razed like stained glass windows, stair newels, etc. instead of letting them go to waste. Danny will inquire about this when he meets with the Park Service point person.
- Danny is in touch with the Cultural Resources Manager, will keep the commission updated on the progress of the NPS management plan

### **Historical Sites Markers**

- Members agreed to keep up on their mission to identify Historical sites in the Township: Danny suggested contacting Pennsylvania Museum and Historical Commission to get information about the state putting up these markers., the application process, what qualifies for a marker, etc..
- Annette: Putting up Markers for Historical sites is a great way to showcase the Commission's work, and even have the unveiling of each marker as a ribbon-cutting / dedication event sponsored by the Township
- Amy looked up the information: applications for markers have to be submitted to PMHC by December 1<sup>st</sup>, the annual nomination deadline.

### **The MIST**

- Danny presented a prototype Commission quarterly publication.
- Members agreed it was a great means of showcasing the commission's work
- Members agreed that it should be sent out as a newsletter.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Steve: In the long-run, have a small room located in/alongside the Township building to display artifacts (requires township to build an exterior room.)
- Supervisor Mitchell suggested conducting meetings (with the exception of work-sessions) in different locations or where other community groups regularly meet. Annette reminded the group that this would require advertising each public meeting that is not held at the township building.
  - Mike gave an example of targeting the older population by having a member of the commission make a presentation at another group's meeting, for example, AARP, or St. John's Senior Group. The board agreed that this is a great way to raise awareness and expand membership.
- Mitchell Suggested having a tour of the Historical Sites of Middle Smithfield Township, perhaps led by Danny Younger. Mitchell suggested that the commission can perhaps set a day in spring or summer and have a stage coach run through the Township on the traditional mail run,
  - Danny will meet with The Columns in Pike county about acquiring their stagecoach
  - Annette will find out if there is someone willing to offer their horses to draw the stage coach

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:54 AM**

**Next Meeting: February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00p.m. at the township building.**