



Minutes: Historical Commission

March 24, 2014

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Historical was held on March 24, 2014 at 7:00pm at the Schoonover Municipal Building with Steven Kulick presiding.

Board Members present: Steven Kulick, Albert Decker, Robert Huffman

Also in attendance: Deborah Kulick, Jennifer Palmer, Danny Younger, Kim Williams, Priscilla Masilamani, Township Liaison Ryan Senay and Supervisors Mike Dwyer and Annette Atkinson

Approval of Minutes

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the last meeting on February 24, 2014. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$2,500.00. The treasurer report was accepted.

Courtesy of the Floor / Public Comment

Correspondence

Old Business

- Calendar Committee: The purpose of the calendar is (see event proposal) to create an archive of old photos and images. Also, the calendar will create an awareness of the commission and ultimately increase attendance at future MST Historical Commission meetings. Kim Williams would like to see how things progress at the meeting before his next step, which is soliciting residents and organizations for photos; he wants to make sure the township and commission fully endorse the project. The group declared the calendar project is a go; the supervisors declared the project has preliminary approval, but still needs to complete the event proposal. The commission will begin to send photo requests.

Steven Kulick requested an article about the project appear in the next township newsletter. Annette Atkinson stated that the next newsletter should be released at the end of April pending the EDC's submission of business directory entrants; the Historical Commission needs to draft the article. The commission will also rely on the township's facebook and township website to solicit photos. As discussed in the February 24 regular meeting, photos that are not used in the first calendar will be stored via digital archive for future use. The group agreed that photos will be collected throughout the summer with a self-imposed deadline of November 1 to submit for print. This will afford time to create a proof and the Township and committee can make revisions if necessary.

- Archive Committee - It was suggested that Ryan Senay be the point of contact to submit things to the township's archives for use by the township and township committees. Ryan will research online photo archiving applications and present findings at next month's meeting. Danny Younger suggested the photo archive be searchable. If online resources are unable to support this function, Danny will send the HTML code to Ryan.
- Monroe County Passport to History Update: Corrections have been made as recommended. Amy Leiser confirmed that the requested changes were made. The Presbyterian Church and Zion Church will be featured.

- MST Passport to History: No change in plans for the Township's passport to history. The committee will wait to see how the Monroe County Passport to History turns out.
- Historical Donations: Annette mentioned new donations. Steve and Annette will discuss after the meeting.
- Leave a Legacy Interviews of Long Time Residents (Oral History Program): This project is leftover from the 2013 Memory Maker event. About five people showed interest in the interview at the event. The commission does not want to let this idea die. To generate interest, Steve suggested that the commission post on the township Facebook pages, in the township newsletter, and in "Bushkill to Shawnee" FB groups that the Historical Commission is looking for people to discuss their memories. Robert Huffman will get in touch with Mike Silvoy regarding recording the interviews. Jennifer Palmer said she has an audio recorder that can be used.
- Commission Awareness: There are 101 members on the closed Historical Commission's Facebook site. Steve Kulick will open the closed site in an attempt to promote discussion and increase attention to the group and its activities and events. The commission will now have the township website, township Facebook page, and Steve's Facebook page as a means to achieve these goals.
- The Veteran's Memorial is a closed issue, as this is a Parks and Recreation project.
- Appreciation Certificates: Steve would like to present guest speakers and presenters with appreciation certificates or plaques. Annette said that the township has certificate pages. Robert Huffman said that plaques look nicer. The group agreed. The Historical Commission neweds to decide on the kind of plaques, get them, and apply to their budget.
- Spurline Del-Val Old Track Line Walk: At present, no date has been set. Steven Kulick stated that he approved the walk on the property train bed. There has been no interaction with John Belljean. Michael Straw will contact Jon Belljean about the event and update him on the events progress.

New Business

- Presentations: The commission compiled a list of presenters. Dates and times will be determined when presenters are finalized. Danny Younger suggested the commission contact Ken Sandry, an employee of the Forestry Service. Kim Williams stated that other historical societies present topics other than township history. He said that Barrett Township hosted a presentation on bottle collecting in the area. The presentation focused on bottle makers in Cresco and branched out. Steve Kulick mentioned that the Historical Association of Tobyhanna Township hosts presentations regarding local family histories. The commission can solicit information through social media and see if any local families are willing to discuss their history. The commission can ask Nancy Schukaitis; she can discuss the Michael family. Steve will reach out to Marie Summa.
 - Possible 2014 Presenters: Nancy Schukaitis, Ken Sandry, Marie Summa, and Tim Sty. Tim Sty has not responded about Delaware Valley trains but Kim Williams can try to contact him once more. The presentation Mr. Sty was giving at Whispering Pines has been postponed until October sometime. Steve will get in touch with Amy Leiser at

Monroe County Historical Commission. She could direct us to local resources regarding railroads and trains.

- Danny Younger suggested a public event regarding Native American Pottery. This event would combine the history of Native Americans in the area and creating Native American pottery. The group questioned who would host the event. Danny and Annette mentioned MudWorks, Earthenware, and Mal Law. Annette will contact MudWorks and Earthenware. She will contact Mal Law and see if he knows anyone who can assist this project. This event will be discussed at future Historical Commission meetings.
- Robert Huffman said that June 26 is the 50th anniversary of the dynamite explosion in Middle Smithfield Township. It was also noted that the Middle Smithfield Township Presbyterian Church will celebrate its 200th anniversary this summer, too. It was suggested that the commission add these topics to our list of potential presentations and discussions.
- Timeline of Middle Smithfield History: Steve Kulick does not want to let this idea drop. Steve suggested that an elongated strip would be an efficient and creative method of illustrating township history. Danny Younger said he will consider working with Steve on this project.

Announcements

- Annette informed the group that the Township hired a grant writer. Staff members and several committee members attended the Penn State CoOp Extension class on Grant writing. For groups such as the Historical Commission that sent no committee members, the grant writer will conduct an all day class at the township.

Next Meeting is April 28th at 7pm / Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Senay, Township Liaison

Copy:

- Committee Board Members
- Committee Sub-Committee and/or Task Force Members
- Supervisors
- MST Liaison
- MST Township Secretary