



Minutes: Historical Commission

9 June 2014

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission was held on June 2, 2014 at 7:00pm at the Schoonover Municipal Building with Steven Kulick presiding and Steven Natiello as recording secretary.

Board Members: Steven Kulick, Ed Regina, Robert Huffman, Diane Huffman

In Attendance: Jennifer Palmer, John Beljean, Michelle Jacques, Priscilla Masilamani, Kim Williams, Debbie Kulick

Township Staff: Supervisor Annette Atkinson, Acting-Liaison Steven Natiello.

Meeting called to order at 7:07pm

- Sign-in sheets, the meeting agenda, and the previous meeting minutes were distributed.
- The committee acknowledged and welcomed new guests and temporary liaison and recording secretary Steven Natiello.

Board Member Responsibilities Discussion.

- Ed Regina wants to set up a program format for the treasurer.
- Ed Regina will contact Township Treasurer Mike Dwyer relevant info.

Programs and project updates. Kim Williams

- Kim Williams reported at the last meeting an estimated price of \$6 per calendar at Baronsville printing.
- Annette Atkinson reported there will be a photo club exhibit on June 5, 2014. Post cards will be handed out at this event asking for old photos.
- Kim Williams reported no progress on the photos for the archive and had hoped to receive some interest from various newsletters. Annette Atkinson suggested putting more effort into face-to-face interaction since interpersonal communication is proven to be more effective than print advertising. Also, the Memory Makers luncheon could be another source.

Passport to History. Steven Kulick

- Steven Kulick reported no update: corrections are in and Steven will bring a copy to the next meeting.

Donations. Steven Kulick

- Steve Kulick will bring the railroad spike to the next meeting.
- Steve Kulick expressed his appreciation for the donations.
- Donations include:
 - An axehead by Steven Kulick
 - A railroad spike by Steven Kulick
 - A hotel/resort doorknob by Steven Kulick
 - Echo Lake Resort room key by Steven Kulick
 - A fossil donated by Cory Lyon
 - Toy truck bank by Ginny Evans

“Long-time Resident Interviews”. All

- Suggestions include:
 - Nancy Shukaitis overview of her book and area knowledge.
 - Speakers on tanneries.
 - Tim Sty for trains in the Monroe County area (DL&W).
 - Mal Law repeat performance on Indian history and artifacts.
 - Middle Smithfield Township church history. Find someone to talk about the Presbyterian Church (Gary Summers was suggested).
 - Marie Summa regarding Stroudsburg/East Stroudsburg/Bushkill history.
 - Resort history of the area. Perhaps round table discussion.
- The committee agreed to the following tentative plans: group interviews will be conducted on a Saturday during midday.
- Ed Regina suggested doing a roundtable discussion with the longtime locals.

Committee Business. Steve Kulick

- The yard sale was cancelled, but advertisement materials prepared (such as the banner design) remain available for use during the next event.

Appreciation Plaques / Certificates

- Steve Kulick will send names and info for certificate to Steven Natiello.

Old track line walk.

- There will be a meeting on Wed for anyone to attend.
- John Beljean and Steve Kulick will scout the suggested walk route to calculate difficulty.
- Michelle Jacques relayed to the committee that the outing would likely take about three hours and would require vehicle(s) to meet and ferry participants between walkable portions.
- Kim Williams made several helpful suggestions.

Virtual Photo Tour. John Beljean

- John Beljean suggested a virtual photo tour to help spur interest.
- Kim Williams mentioned a series of 1939 aerials that could help.
- Steve Kulick distributed a copy of the aerials mentioned by Kim Williams around.
- Debbie Kulick mentioned Laurie Samet's idea of a virtual museum.
- The committee discussed where to house the physicals of the digital archives.
 - The former Smithfield Library building was discussed as a possibility.
- John Beljean suggested taking photographs of the coal bins.
- Ed Regina suggested using feedback from the community to help identify unknown entities in historical photos.
- The “Virtual Railroad Exploration Project” was considered as a potential title.
- John Beljean, Jennifer Palmer, Deborah Kulick, Ed Regina, and Michelle Jacques agreed to serve on a committee to develop the virtual tour.
- Laurie Palmer volunteered to do can do geo-referencing and digital mapping.

Upcoming presentations. All

- Steve Kulick suggested going on a tour of Gray Towers.
- There was a discussion of event advertising. The following options were suggested:
 - Pocono Record
 - Township Meetings
 - This Week in the Poconos
 - Flyers in stores
 - Announcements for Senior Groups

Upcoming Presentations. All

- Steve Kulick will meet with Nancy Shukaitis for an overview of her book and area knowledge.
- Ed Regina suggested adding Nancy Shukaitis to the interview list.
- Kim Williams suggested asking interviewees for interviewee suggestions and agreed to speak with Gary Summers regarding the history of the Presbyterian Church.
- Steve Kulick will invite Marie Summa.

Hotels and Honeymoons. All

- John Beljean volunteered to help with local attractions.
- Ed Regina suggested a roundtable with longtime locals.

Miscellaneous

- Steve Kulick passed around printouts of old adverts and photos, all of which he intends to donate to township historical cabinet.
- Steve Kulick asked the committee to vote for the top three presentations of the list from the agenda.
- The three chosen were: trains, resorts (hotels and honeymoons), and Nancy Shukaitis (instead of Mal Law, citing Nancy Shukaitis' broader experience with the township history).

Gray Towers. All

- There was a discussion regarding the relevance of the Gray Towers outing, since Gray Towers is not in Middle Smithfield.

56th Anniversary of the Fire Truck Explosion. Bob Huffman

- Bob Huffman mentioned that the 26th of June is the 56th anniversary of the fire truck explosion in 1964. The fire company is having a memorial service on the 21st of June.
- Kim Williams will archive Bob Huffman's existing documents regarding the explosion, including magazines.

Snapshots of Middle Smithfield Photo Exhibit.

- Steven Natiello informed the committee about the Pocono Photo Club photography exhibit reception scheduled for the upcoming Thursday and invited the committee to attend.

Adjourn at 8:30pm.

Next meeting will be scheduled for Monday June 23rd