



The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission was held on November 1, 2017 at 9:00 AM with Carrie Wetherbee presiding and Dana Francis as recording secretary.

Board Members: Carrie Wetherbee, Bob Huffman, Marie Summa, Kim Williams and Ken Johns.

Public: None

Township Staff: Liaison Dana Francis, Township Secretary & HR Director Michele Clewell

- Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM with Carrie Wetherbee presiding.
- Bob Huffman made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Ken Johns seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
- Bob Huffman made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Kim Williams. Motion Passed 5-0

Correspondence:

- Regretfully, Marie Summa handed in her letter of resignation from the Historical Commission effective immediately. Marie will be having surgery which will not allow her to continue to volunteer the time and thoroughness she would like to the Commission. Everyone was very sad to see her go and agreed that she is a very valuable asset to the history of our area.

Public Comment:

- None

New Business:

- **2018 Memory Makers & 2019 Calendar Theme**
 - On October 27th the Historical Commission members received an email from Michele Clewell, Township Secretary, on behalf of the Supervisors. The email addressed the topic chose for the 2018 Memory Makers and 2019 Calendar, Women Who Made History in Monroe County. The email stated that the Supervisors would prefer a topic that is more inclusive be chosen, like the local theatre and playhouses and asked Commission members to consider changing the topic.
 - Michele joined the meeting to clarify any confusion. She explained that the purpose of the Memory Makers event is to preserve and record the memories of local long-time residents have of our area and share stories and experiences. The Supervisors are concerned the chosen topic will not achieve this.

- After general discussion took place about various women who have made a big impact on Middle Smithfield Township in particular, the Commission felt confident that they can create a presentation that will appeal to all and are passionate about moving forward with this particular topic.

Old Business:

- **Historical Marker Progress:**

- Township Markers:

- The Commission went over the application, photos and documents Carrie compiled for the Middle Smithfield Presbyterian Church. Discussion took place about the history of the church and original interior features. The Commission agreed the Township Marker Application was ready to be submitted to the Supervisors.

- State Markers:

- Dana provided an update on the Marshalls Creek Explosion application. The PA Historical and Museum Commission provided comments and feedback that was very helpful. Dana is working on getting records of the Marshalls Creek Explosion being mentioned in public hearings to adopt the Transportation Safety Act of 1974, and Hazardous Materials Transportation Act of 1975 proving its state and national significance. These changes will be made and a final draft will be submitted by the December 1, 2017 deadline.
- Dana informed the Commission members that the township would like to get as many State Historical Markers as possible and she has begun working on an application for the Resica Falls Archaeological Site using the Township Marker application as a guide. Kim said he would go and get present day photos of the site to include.

- **Fossil Day Event Recap:**

- The Fossil Day Event took place on Thursday, October 12th, 5:30-7:00p. Dana informed the Commission members that she has received excellent feedback on the event. Everyone agreed that the presenters, Field Paleontologists, Mike & Roberta Straka were fantastic and they would like to continue to use them for future Fossil Day events. Carrie mentioned possibly using the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall for next year.

- **2018 Calendar Theme:**

- Dana informed the Commission members that some of the chosen photos were too low resolution to be enlarged and incorporating local advertising of the times to pair with low resolution and/or sepia/black and white photos would help make the calendar more visually appealing. Everyone is very excited to see the final product.

Announcements:

- a) MST Dinner for Veterans, Friday November 10th: Please pass the word around to local veterans
- b) Person of the Year & Volunteer Appreciation Banquet, Friday, November 17th, 7-10pm
- c) Shop Local Discount cards delivered in Holiday Newsletter approximately November 20th Program runs November 20- January 2, 2018
- d) 5th Annual Tree Lighting, Saturday November 25th, 5:30pm at Echo Lake Park
- e) Annual presentation of the budget and year-end report December 4th at 7pm

Meeting adjourned at 10:55am.

Next Meeting: December 6th at 9:00am.