



The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission was held on February 1, 2017 at 9:05 AM with Carrie Wetherbee presiding and Chantel Wilder as recording secretary.

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

Public: Ken Johns

Township Staff: Liaison Chantel Wilder, Supervisor/Admin/Ops Director Annette Atkinson

- Carrie Wetherbee made a motion to call the meeting to order. Bob Huffman seconded the motion. Meeting called to order at 9:05AM.
- Bob Huffman made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Kim Williams seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
- Bob Huffman made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Kim Williams. Motion Passed 4-0

**Correspondence:**

- Ms. Knight was contacted during meeting to inquire about the projector that she offered to the Township to view all the slides that she donated. Ms. Knight stated that she will drop off the projector to the Township sometime soon.

**Public Comment:**

- None

**New Business:**

- **Overview of Vice Chair and Secretary Duties:**
  - Review of Historical Commission officer roles and duties, mission statement and ordinance that created the commission. Carrie Wetherbee asked members to review to ensure that they are all up to date with their duties and mission.
- **2017 Memory Makers:**
  - Carrie Wetherbee sent potential speaker Mr. Wilson an email and has not received a response as of yet.
  - Carrie Wetherbee also reached out to Amy Leiser at the Monroe County Historical Association and inquired if would be interested in speaking at this year's Memory Makers and Amy informed her that she would not be available; Amy did offer to reach out to Mr. Wilson on her behalf.
    - Marie Summa suggested an alternate speaker n the event that Mr. Wilson is unavailable, she suggested Michelle Kitner.
    - Members asked if Kim Williams would be interested in speaking as he had done a presentation on the Pennsylvania Railroad, he politely declined.
  - Carrie Wetherbee made a motion to have the August 19<sup>th</sup> Memory Makers at Pocono Palace, seconded by Bob Huffman. Motion passed 4-0. The recommendation by the Historical Commission will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors.

- **2018 Calendar Theme**

- The Historical Commission confirmed the 2018 calendar theme to be “Modes of Transportation” which will include:
  - Ferries (river travel)
  - Stage coach
  - Railroads
  - Automobiles
  - Bicycle
  - Horseback
  - Paved roads
  - Rafting (lumber)
  - Old school buses
  - Wagon
  - Steamboats

**Old Business:**

- **National Park service list of Middle Smithfield properties that are to be razed-update:**

- Discussion regarding the update that was sent to all members, which stated that past Chair Danny Younger and the Commission discussed organizing local photographers and photography clubs such as the Pocono Photography Club along with the Historical Commission to go out and capture images of Historical sites and buildings before they are razed by the National Park Service
- Annette Atkinson spoke to John Donahue, National Park Superintendent, who said there is currently no list of properties to be razed, and nothing in our township is slated to be razed. Although the urgency is now gone, the consensus was that creating a photographic history of these historical sites is still a worthy project.
- Carrie Wetherbee asked Kim Williams if he would be interested in taking photos
  - Kim Williams said that a list of the historical properties will need to be created prior to know what properties to photograph, using the list in the MST Comprehensive Plan that had been distributed as a guide; he suggested also making a list of old barns which could potentially be used for a future calendar theme.
  - Ken Johns suggested not to wait too long to photograph sites as National Park Service can move forward at any time to raze properties.
    - Carrie Wetherbee asked Ken Johns if he had any photos of old properties in the township that he would be willing to share with the township and he said that he would bring in what he has to our next meeting.
  - Carrie Wetherbee made a motion for the Historical Commission members to prioritize the list of historical properties in the MST Comprehensive Plan, seconded by Bob Huffman. Motion passed 4-0. Editor’s Note: This is the same list the Historical Commission is using to prioritize Township and State Marker applications

- **Historical Commission archives:**

- When the Historical Commission has a slide projector, its members can begin reviewing the donated slides and decide which slides they would like to be converted to digital files.
- Annette Atkinson received a digital copy of a set of slides of the Flood of '55 donated to the township by Steven Schoonover. The photos from Sonny Albrecht. Annette suggested the Historical Commission think of a promotion – perhaps create a bunch of posts using one photo at a time, but linking back to the album, on the web/FB with “Can you identify these people and places?” to get input from the public and raise interest in the Historical Commission.

- **Township Marker Progress:**

- The current draft of the Township Marker documents were reviewed:
  - Bob Huffman suggested to add, when received, when read, approved or declined and reason for approval or declining on the back of the application.
  - Ken Johns asked about properties that border township; the draft documents have a provision for inter-municipal cooperation.
  - Historical Commission members discussed other changes and offered suggestions where needed to ensure a smooth application process for the applicant.
- Carrie Wetherbee made motion to accept paperwork (procedure, criteria, application) Kim Williams seconded. Motion passed 4-0.  
EDITOR'S NOTE: Members asked for changes to documents. Changes have since been made, and incorporated into the documents, and were recirculated to Historical Commission. Documents ready for further review and possible approval at next meeting in March.

**Discussion:**

- Carrie Wetherbee went over goal packet that was provided to each member
- Annette Atkinson inquired if the Historical Commission members wanted to plan something for 2017 Fossil Day
  - Carrie Wetherbee suggested a luncheon
    - Annette Atkinson asked for suggestions on what the program would be.
    - Marie Summa suggested showing the long version of the Mastodon interview done last year
      - Carrie Wetherbee asked members to review the video, Annette Atkinson said that copies of video will be provided to members at next meeting
  - Carrie Wetherbee made motion to have luncheon on Fossil day, Bob Huffman seconded. Motion passed 4-0. To present this recommendation to the Supervisors.

- Annette Atkinson inquired if Historical Commission members what they would want to do to commemorate the Flood of 55, and the Marshalls Creek explosion anniversaries. The Township always makes sure to include these in the Historical Calendars, and commemorates on all township Facebook and web pages. The Board of Supervisors also always attends the annual MCFC ceremony.
  - Bob Huffman mentioned the Marshalls Creek Fire department Company does something every year for the explosion
    - Annette Atkinson asked if Bon Huffman wanted to reach out to the Marshalls Creek fire department and inquire about the specifics of what they will be doing for the anniversary of the explosion and report back to the group.
      - Carrie Wetherbee suggested a wreath can be given to the fire department on behalf of the MST Historical Commission, and asked Bob Huffman to think of anything else that the Commission members can do to contribute
- Carrie Wetherbee went over a to-do list for the commission members, asking them to:
  - Consider what they want to do for the flood anniversary
  - Review application for marker and offer any additional comments or suggestions at next meeting
  - Decide what they will do for the anniversary of the Marshalls Creek explosion.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:06am.**

**Next Meeting: March 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am**