



The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission was held on March 8, 2017 at 9:05 AM with Carrie Wetherbee presiding and Chantel Wilder as recording secretary.

Board Members: Carrie Wetherbee, Bob 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:

- Historical Commission member Diane Huffman emailed her resignation from the Commission to be effective immediately due to medical reasons.
 - Carrie Wetherbee commented how much the commission members will miss Diane Huffman and asked Ken Johns if he would be interested in the now vacant seat on the commission, Ken Johns politely declined as he will be moving out of the State soon.
- Bushkill Historical Society donated Middle Smithfield Township related artifacts; the artifacts were displayed for Historical Commission members to review. Person that dropped off the folder was Anthony Bartone.
 - Carrie Wetherbee expressed her gratitude for the donation and hopes to have the donated artifacts displayed in the near future.
 - Carrie Wetherbee provided an update on the projector that has not been dropped off as of yet. Group discussed purchasing one, and looked up new ones on Amazon at the meeting for approximately \$120. Carrie spoke to Steven Kulick and he mentioned that he also has some old slides; it is possible that he has similar to what was donated.

Public Comment:

- None

New Business:

- **2017 Memory Makers:**
 - Carrie Wetherbee confirmed speaker Mr. Wilson will be available to be this year's speaker and he is excited to be a part of it.
 - Kim Williams mentioned that he has materials that could be of use to Mr. Wilson if he is interested for his presentation.
 - Carrie Wetherbee also commented that due to Mr. Wilson's teaching schedule it may be difficult for him to attend a normal monthly meeting, and suggested that a future meeting date and time may need to be changed to accommodate Mr. Wilson's schedule.

- Kim Williams commented on request for him to be a speaker at last meeting, he wanted to clarify that he was honored by the request but felt that someone such as Martin Wilson would be more suitable as his knowledge is more inclusive to modes of transportations, while his is more specific to railroads.
 - Kim Williams inquired about possibly having newly published author Michelle Jacques at this year's Memory Makers to sell her books and have a book signing. The author attended a meeting last year and our township is mentioned in her book.
 - Annette Atkinson mentioned that Mary Schafer's book signing went well; accommodations could easily be made for Michelle..
 - Kim Williams asked if scanner would be available again this year, and Chantel Wilder confirmed that it would be.
 - Kim suggested that perhaps a specific topic can be mentioned to residents for them to provide memorabilia on (i.e. transportation, barns, etc.) and that information can be used for a future calendar.
- **2018 Calendar Theme:**
 - Modes of Transportation
 - Kim Williams mentioned that he has some photos, however is concerned about the quality of the images. Carrie Wetherbee suggested that we can try to make the best of what we are able to collect and take it from there.
- **Possible Fossil Day Event:**
 - Carrie Wetherbee discussed landscaping around Mastodon Marker
 - Annette Atkinson mentioned that Kevin Jones has stated that he would like to be responsible for the landscaping, however she would like to suggest to him to allow the township's Parks & Rec committee and Community Gardeners do the landscaping.
 - Annette Atkinson informed the Commission members that the Board of Supervisors discussed Fossil Day event at their workshop and would like to combine the event on the same day as their Board of Supervisors meeting in October (the 12th, which is a day after Fossil Day on the 11th). .
 - Members agreed that would work great
 - Carrie Wetherbee stated that she would make contact with the descendants of the Mastodon discovers to ensure that that October 12th date, prior to the Supervisor's meeting will work for them. She will also inquire about using some of the images that were in the video that was taken of them last year.
 - Historical Commission members are planning the event for Thursday, October 12 in the Municipal Building, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. The Supervisor meeting is schedule for 7 PM on the same night, at the beginning of the Supervisor Meeting the Township will present something to the descendant families.
 - During the event, the Marshalls Creek Mastodon video will be played for the public.
- **Marshalls Creek Explosion Anniversary:**
 - Carrie Wetherbee asked members to have ideas and suggestions prepared to discuss at next meeting
 - Annette Atkinson asked Bob Huffman if he was able to find out what the Marshalls Creek Fire Department has planned for this year
 - Bob Huffman stated that he believes that ceremony will take place the same day as it has every year on the actual anniversary, Annette asked

- about the ceremonial fire truck ride on the route of the explosion ending back at the firehouse. Bob Huffman will look into it.
- Discussion turned to getting a state marker for this site.
 - Kim Williams agreed and suggested that be a project for 2018 anniversary for installation
 - Both Kim Williams and Bob Huffman mentioned that steps would need to be taken prior to marker process beginning. A meeting with between the Historical Commission members and Fire Department and Ed Regina (his family and property were involved in the blast) along with current landowners need to take place. The site of the blast includes several parcels owned by different landowners: Ed Regina and the Church of St. John on the north side of Milford Road, and John Petrizzo on the south side of the road.
 - Annette Atkinson said the it would be a joint application between Township and Marshalls Creek Fire Department
 - Bob Huffman will contact the Marshalls Creek Fire Department president and ask for their availability and will discuss it with them at their convenience.

Old Business:

- **National Park service list of Middle Smithfield properties -update:**
 - At the last meeting Kim Williams was asked if he could drive around and take photos of historical sites within the Park Service's land, since none are scheduled to be razed.
 - Kim Williams advised that once a list of historical properties is completed he will take photos of the still standing properties. Annette stated the list is and always has been in the 2007 Comprehensive Plan.
 - Carrie Wetherbee and Kim Williams went over the National Park Service map and came up with a small list of still standing properties
- **Historical Commission archives:**
 - Carrie Wetherbee suggested that a projector for the slides be purchased so that Historical Commission members can begin looking through the slides.
- **Township Marker Progress:**
 - Carrie Wetherbee asked members to review packet that they were given and asked if anyone had any objections.
 - Carrie Wetherbee made motion to accept the draft documents (Township Marker Application, etc), and forward to Supervisors to recommend approval of application and application procedure. Kim Williams seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Discussion:

- Ken Johns discussed camp William Penn, and stated that it is torn down now and there is a new fenced in area for the cemetery and suggested that members should check it out when they can.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

Next Meeting: April 5th at 9:00am