



The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission was held on May 3, 2017 at 9:00 AM with Carrie Wetherbee presiding and Chris Rain as recording secretary.

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

Public: Ken Johns, Michelle Jacques

Township Staff: Chris Rain

- Carrie Wetherbee made a motion to call the meeting to order. Marie Summa seconded the motion. Meeting called to order at 9:02AM.
- Kim Williams made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Marie Summa seconded. Motion passed 3-0.
- Kim Williams made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Marie Summa. Motion Passed 3-0

Correspondence:

- None

Public Comment:

- **Vacant Seat:**
 - Ken Johns agreed to occupy the vacant position on the Commission. Kim made the motion, and Marie seconded the motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that Ken Johns fill the vacant seat and be a Historical Commission Board Member. Motion passed 3-0.
- **Michelle Jacques:**
 - Michelle's book, *Delaware Valley Railway, 1901-1937* with Arcadia Publishing is coming out June 12 and will cost \$21.95. It includes a history of the railway, riding the railway, and its pathway and focuses on several local municipalities including MST.

New Business:

- **2017 Memory Makers:**
 - Professor Wilson from ESU will attend the Historical Commission meeting in June. Kim had posted over 100 photos online and sent a link to each of the Commission members to review. The Commission will begin to choose photos for Memory Makers on August 19 and the 2018 calendar at the June meeting. They will need a projector to show the photos to Professor Wilson. Marie suggested that he may have books he would like to promote at Memory Makers. Additional photos can be added to the back of the calendar.
- **Marshalls Creek Explosion Anniversary:**
 - Bob Huffman arrived late to the meeting at 9:43 and updated the Commission. He has not met with the Fire Company yet, but he does not believe that they will do any sort of commemoration of the explosion anniversary, other than a small ceremony at the fire house. Kim suggested that members of the Commission attend this ceremony as a show of support and continued local interest in the event.
 - John said he spoke to Ed Regina, who is happy to participate in any way possible and has offered to pay for any sort of memorial that the Township might be interested in installing on his property near the explosion site.

Old Business:

- **Fossil Day Event:**
 - Fossil Day has been scheduled for October 12 from 5:30 to 7:30 and will take place at the Township building. The mastodon banner will be hung and the mastodon film will be shown. The public is invited, including the staff of the National Park. Michelle suggested having an activity geared toward children to improve interest. The Commission was not sure if that would be allowed without everyone completing background checks.
- **Historical Markers:**
 - The committee was provided with copies of the application and procedures and will begin work on their five approved marker locations.
 - There was a call from Mr. Bill Swenson of Timothy Lake about getting an application for his late 1800s era barn, which Chantel forwarded to him.
- **Slides:**
 - Someone still needs to go through all of the slides. It is hoped that some of the slides will be relevant to MST. Carrie hoped that the school trip to Harrisburg might include images of the mastodon.

Discussion:

- Carrie and Marie spoke with a gentleman from New Jersey doing research about Fort Hyndshaw. He was hoping to get drawings or a map showing its exact location, but such a thing does not exist. Kim and John suggested they might visit the area to photograph any remains that might still be there.
 - Marie asked whether Danny Younger's proposed archaeological dig at the site ever took place. No one was sure. Michelle said that it was difficult to get through the red tape at the NPS, but that everything has to go through their archaeological staff.
- John announced that the new PA Police barracks was opening on June 13 on Rimrock Road in Hamilton Township with a public ceremony. The Swiftwater barracks will close at that same time.
- Kim visited the Historical Association looking for historical maps of Middle Smithfield. They provided him with an extra page from their reproduction of the 1875 Beers Atlas, which he donated to the Township.

Meeting adjourned at 10:16am.

Next Meeting: June 7 at 9:00am.