



The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission was held on August 2, 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: George and Nancy Dewitt, Dr. Martin Wilson

Township Staff: Annette Atkinson, Supervisor/Admin & Ops Dir., Liaison Dana Francis

- Meeting called to order at 9:05 AM with Carrie Wetherbee presiding.
- Bob Huffman made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Marie Summa seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
- Ken Johns made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Marie Summa. Motion Passed 4-0

Correspondence:

- None

Public Comment:

- Mr. and Mrs. George Dewitt presented documents and photographs to Kim which could be beneficial to his presentation on "The Dinky" train. The Dewitts also provided various photographs and documents to be scanned into the Historical Commission archives. They will bring in more items on a later date.

New Business:

- None

Old Business:

- **2017 Memory Makers:**
 - Keynote speaker, Dr. Martin Wilson was present for the meeting. Carrie reviewed the program and timeline of the event for him. Dr. Wilson stated he has been to the Pocono Palace venue in the past and is very familiar with the layout.
 - Annette told Dr. Wilson that as he is an expert on the history of local resorts, he is more than welcome to use that perspective and tie the two themes (transportation and their impact on the growth of resorts) together. Dr. Wilson stated this gave him even more ideas on how to approach his presentation.
 - Kim did a run through of his "Days of the Dinky" presentation for the Commission. It was very well received and everyone felt it will be an excellent addition to this year's Memory Makers event.
 - Dana informed everyone that so far there were approximately 120 RSVPs with phone calls still coming in.
 - Annette stated that there have been some inquiries from residents who don't meet the qualifications to attend the event for free. The township policy is to do is to inform people if there are seats left after invited guests have RSVP'd they can make a contribution of \$20 for a ticket to the event.

- **Calendar Update:**
 - Dana informed the Commission that they will be using Sun Litho Print Inc. for the 2018 calendar. Dan from Sun Litho was away on vacation and planning will continue once he returns.
- **Historical Markers:**
 - The discrepancy in dates for the Resica Falls Village Archeological Site was cleared up. After following up on it with the State Historical Commission, Carrie stated that the discrepancy of the National Register of Historical Places listing the site being built in 1864 was a type error. Marie's research indicated 1841 which has been published in several newspapers.
 - The Commission members agreed to move forward using the date of 1841. There is now research on all five of the selected sites. The process of completing applications for these sites will begin in September.
 - General discussion took place about the differences between State and Township Historical Markers, and the National Register of Historical Places. If a site could qualify for a State Marker, it should be applied for first, as once a site has a Township (or any other kind) marker, it is much harder, if at all, to get a State Marker for the same site.

Discussion:

- Annette informed the Commission members, the Dewitts and Dr. Wilson about the Broadhead Watershed Association's upcoming River Ramble which will be in Middle Smithfield this year, and Rain Barrel class preceding it. General discussion took place about the different sites on the River Ramble list (Judy Putek Park, Oak Grove Composting Facility, Resica Falls, and Resica Park) and how rain barrels work.

Meeting adjourned at 10:43am.

Next Meeting: September 6 at 9:00am.