



Minutes: Historical Commission Meeting

March 4, 2020

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission was held on March 4, 2020 starting at 9:00 AM with Carrie Wetherbee presiding.

Board Members: Carrie Wetherbee, Patricia Francis, Ken Johns, Bob Huffman, Charisse Fallon

Township Staff: Rachel Heller

Public:

- Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM with Carrie Wetherbee presiding.

Approval of Minutes:

- Ken Johns made a motion to approve the February 2020 minutes as presented. Charisse Fallon seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: No one present, but Charisse had

New Business:

Old Business:

Township Marker Applications

- The committee was given a copy of the historical section of the comprehensive plan to work off of for the marker applications. The committee as a whole stated that they will not be moving forward with any additional markers until the ones that have been submitted to the supervisors are addressed and acted upon.

Mosier's Dairy

- Carrie Wetherbee spoke with Rick Porvaznik at the Monroe County Historical Association Annual Meeting. He dropped off additional information that he had. Carrie stated that she is going to review it and will present it at the April meeting.

Memory Makers

- Rachel and Supervisor Atkinson met prior to the March meeting to go over topics that were presented by the committee. Supervisor Atkinson stated to Rachel that she would like to see history of the library, specifically in MST and Monroe County be the topic for this year, because Memory Makers will be held at the new Library and Cultural Center.

- Rachel came with a report of the conversation with Supervisor Atkinson to which the committee said that Supervisor Atkinson could speak of the brief history during the supervisor welcome speech at Memory Makers.
- The Committee looked at the list of initial topics and took a vote which was found favorable to move forward with Barns and Farms. However, after further talking about this topic and reminiscing of past remedies, they came up with the topic of “Local Plants and Remedies of the Past”. The committee also agreed that if this topic was denied by the supervisors, they would be ok with “Barns and Farms” as the main topic and “Local Plants and Remedies of the Past” as a subsidiary topic at the event.
- Rachel will meet with Supervisor Atkinson to present the Memory Makers topic on the committee’s behalf.

Registry

- Ken Johns stated that the registry will require extra hours from committee members and the committee agreed to start working on it once the library and community center is complete and there will be more room for them to work.

Zebulun Masonic Lodge (Coolbaugh Mansion)

- Ken Johns received the cornerstone for the Zebulun Lodge at the end of February and took it to the Barger Lodge on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 for Masons to see. He stated that unfortunately, according to Masonic rules there can only be one cornerstone and it should be presented to the land owner. Ken Johns met with Marg Law about the cornerstone and she was not on board with receiving it. He asked her to speak with Mal Law and he would be back in a few days to go over it with them. When Ken Johns returned and went over it with Mal Law he was not on board at first, but came around to the idea and stated that they would indeed accept the cornerstone from the Masons regarding the Zebulun Masonic Lodge.
- Ken Johns stated that the Masons will have a ceremony presentation done a future date. Also, this came at no cost to the township, the Masons paid for this cornerstone.
- Ken Johns also thanked Patricia Francis and Charisse Fallon for uncovering this piece of history.

Discussion: Carrie Wetherbee presented to the committee and idea of doing a Historical Walk open to the public. This would consist of meeting at the Township Building and taking the community out on a walk of a specific historical location within the township. The walk would be approximately one to two hours and would require committee involvement. The committee thought this would be a great idea and they would work on it more to figure out logistics.

Next meeting date: April 1, 2020

Adjournment

- Ken Johns made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 am, seconded by Pat Francis.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Heller
Recording Secretary