



Minutes: Historical Commission Meeting

July 1, 2021

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission was held on July 1, 2021 starting at 9:00 AM.

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

Public: None

Liaison: Rachel Heller and Supervisor Annette Atkinson

Approval of Minutes:

- Ken Johns made a motion to approve the June 2021 minutes as presented. Patricia Francis seconded. Motion passed 4 -0.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: None

Old Business:

Lecture Series

- Patricia Francis made a motion that was seconded by Ken Johns to adjust how we are going to proceed with the lecture series. There will be a display at the MST Community Center to include blown up photos and personal accounts on loop. This would cover all of the topics listed below. Motion passed 4-0
- Rachel Heller and Annette Atkinson will work on the logistics of how it will be set up and get the photos blown up. We will also provide a card that can be filled out and left behind so that anyone visiting the display could submit personal accounts or have their photos included in years to come.
 - 1955 Flood
 - A motion was made by Patricia Francis and seconded by Ken Johns that we run the 1955 Flood during August of 2021. Motion passed 4 -0
 - Gather photos and get accounts from Ken Johns, Bob Huffman, Michael Chaplin and Kim Williams.
 - Mastadon
 - A motion was made by Charisse Fallon and seconded by Patricia Francis that we run the Mastadon loop during September of 2021. Motion passed 4-0
 - We will use a previous presentation given about the Mastadon to run on the loop.
 - Tocks Island; A tribute to Nancy Shukaitis
 - A motion was made by Bob Huffman and seconded by Charisse Fallon that we run the Tocks Island loop; A tribute to Nancy Shukaitis during March 2022 to commemorate Women's History Month. Motion passed 4-0

- Rachel Heller will contact the National Park Service, Monroe County Historical Association, Danny Younger and Kim Williams regarding photos from the Tocks Island Dam Project.
- Marshalls Creek Explosion
 - A motion was made by Bob Huffman and seconded by Ken Johns that we run the Marshalls Creek Explosion loop during June of 2022. Motion passed 4-0
 - Rachel Heller will work with Bob Huffman to collect news articles, photos and personal accounts.

Registry

- The committee agreed that they need to set up roundtables to sort through and start cataloging the items that we have

Honoring Robert Huffman

- Bob Huffman expressed that he doesn't feel it's necessary that we honor him, because he enjoyed serving his community in various capacities.
- The committee agreed that Rachel Heller should submit a formal request to the Board of Supervisors on behalf of the committee to move forward with honoring Bob for all of his service.

Zebulun Cornerstone

- Ken Johns gave us an update that the Masonic Lodge is possibly going to try to do the dedication in October, because during the time of the Zebulun Lodge, October was when they would do dedication ceremonies.

New Business:

2021 Projects

- A motion was made by Patricia Francis and seconded by Charisse Fallon that we make the Marshalls Creek Explosion monument our number one priority for 2021. Motion passed 4-0.
 - The committee would also like to further try and get the information that was requested so that the Explosion could receive a State Marker. Annette Atkinson said that the comments reflected needing more information as to how is a direct link to the placarding system that is used today. Rachel Heller will look through the files to locate the lead investigator and see if we could get his court testimony. Rachel Heller will also contact Representative Rosemary Brown and Senator Mario Scavello to help us with this.
 - Rachel Heller and Ken Johns will contact Retired. Pennsylvania State Trooper Michael Chaplin, whose father PSP Sargent Even Chaplin was present at the time of the explosion for any information that he might have that could be beneficial to us.
- Supervisor Annette Atkinson suggested that the committee revisit the Barns and Farms topic that was covered in 2020. We can get pictures of those properties and check with Kim Williams first to see what he has for photos. These properties are then what we can make note of for the Comprehensive Plan such as if a property has significant historical value (any structure over 50 years old), we could send our recommendation into the Board of Supervisors

that says that those properties could not apply for Lerta or restrict was can be done to those properties.

- A motion was made by Patricia Francis and seconded by Charisse Fallon that a meeting be scheduled for Tuesday July 6 to further discuss the Comprehensive Plan and solidify the Historical Commission recommendations to be submitted to the BOS. Motion passed 4-0.

Discussion:

- The committee agreed that a History booklet needs to be put together to send out to Memory Makers residents (if you are over a certain age and have lived here since a certain year TBD) then we want to hear from you. Supervisor Annette Atkinson also suggested calling the residents to get their stories from a list of questions.

Action Items:

- **Rachel Heller** to contact **Ken John, Bob Huffman**, Michael Chaplin and Kim Williams for their 1955 Flood stories.
- **Rachel Heller** to work with Annette Atkinson to contact Tom Riccabono to video and edit for the loop.
- **Charisse Fallon and Patricia Francis** to work on collecting items for the Mastadon in September.
- **Rachel Heller** work with Annette Atkinson to look through Explosion files and get investigators testimony to submit for State Marker again. Rachel will also contact Rosemary Brown and Mario Scavello for any assistance they could offer.
- **Rachel Heller** to submit formal request to BOS to honor Bob Huffman for his years of service
- **All** work on Comprehensive plan Historical Section. Final comments need to be into Rachel for July 9th. This meeting will be Tuesday July 6th at 9am.

Next meeting date: August 5,2021

Adjournment

- Patricia Francis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 am, seconded by Charisse Fallon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Heller
Recording Secretary