



Minutes: Historical Commission Meeting

September 2, 2021

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission was held on September 2, 2021 starting at 9:00 AM.

Board Members: Carrie Weatherbee, Ken Johns, Patricia Francis, & Charisse Fallon

Public: None

Liaison: Rachel Heller and Supervisor Annette Atkinson

Approval of Minutes:

- Charisse Fallon made a motion to approve the August 2021 minutes as presented. Ken Johns seconded. Motion passed 4 -0.

Correspondence:

- Liaison Rachel Heller asked if anyone from the committee would be willing to work the MST table at the Volunteer Fair and Touch a Truck event on 9/18. Everyone agreed that they would be present at various times throughout the day.

Public Comment: None

Old Business:

Historical Exhibit

- Mastodon Exhibit will be running in October now
- Rachel Heller stated that we will need to start collecting articles, photos, information on Nancy Shukaitis and any other information pertaining to Tocks Island so that that exhibit can start being worked on. We will need the information ready for the January 2022 meeting.

Marshalls Creek Explosion

- Carrie Weatherbee stated that from what she has seen in her research the driver had Hazmat signs but took them off of the truck and put them behind the seat.
- Patricia Francis stated that after reading the articles and testimonies there is many conflicting statements from what she has read so far and there is nothing that stands out that makes this explosion unique from the others.
- Charisse Fallon stated that she can't find dates that link the safety changes to our explosion that would show that this explosion is in fact the reason we have Hazmat regulations today.
- Carrie Weatherbee asked if we can find a statement from a Representative to the state regarding this. The only statement that is available that she found is from Rosemary Brown in regards to the 50th Anniversary of the explosion.
- From research it was found that the first working Hazmat laws date back to 1866
- In 1974 the changes were made to the US Transportation Act regulating the transportation of Hazardous Materials.

- Ken Johns stated that Senator Mario Scavello is working on the topic also to help us get answers.
- It was decided to table this topic until we can find more materials relating to a specific cause and any further information needs to be submitted to Rachel Heller and Carrie Weatherbee by November 1st so that we can resubmit for a State Marker if more information becomes available.
- If the State Marker can't be achieved we will submit what we have to the Board of Supervisors so that we can have a Township Marker. With the approval of Ed Regina the Township marker would be placed on his property as he has offered it in the past.
- Rachel Heller will prepare the Township application and hold it until November 1st, if Senator Scavello comes up with more information then the state application can be submitted.

Registry

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

New Business: None

Next meeting date: November 4 ,2021

Adjournment

- Charisse Fallon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 am, seconded by Ken Johns.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Heller
Recording Secretary