

Minutes of the East Brandywine Historical Commission meeting on February 9, 2005

jrk 3/8/2005

John Black, Carl Josephson, John Kessler and Katherine Prammer from the Commission attended.

1. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting in January were approved with a few changes.

2. Review of action items

John K reported he had sent the Commission's approval of Mr. Szustak's sign to Scott Piersol.

John K. did meet with Bob Wise and David Sweet on January 21st to discuss our proposed demolition changes to the EBT zoning ordinances and briefly discussed the proposal to make Guthriesville a real Historic District. John K. also met at a Board of Supervisors where Bob Wise outlined his proposal for what it would take to make Guthriesville a Historic District. (See new business and attachment below.)

John K. did contact Scott Piersol concerning putting notices concerning new members, mentioning that the EBHC meets every month, and the Szustak tour in the Milemarker. Scott mentioned that George Holmes is the editor. In conversation with George Holmes, it was established that the copy deadline to the Township was March 20th for the late April edition.

John K. failed to ask for a new CD for the Zoning Ordinances.

John K. failed to ask the Township to renew it membership in the Chester County Historic Preservation Network.

3. Status of developments

There is a rumor that Wawa is on the backburner.

4. New members

Katherine proposed at least one possible new member; Katherine took an action to contact the person.

5. New business

John K. handed out an overview of his conversation with David Sweet and Bob Wise concerning the Comprehensive Plan and the making of Gurthriesville an historic district. He also had an overview of the Board of Supervisors meeting where Bob Wise summarized his proposal for making Gurthriesville an historic district. (A slightly updated version is attached to these minutes.)

Katherine volunteered to have a half day training class on searching court records beyond deeds. She suggested tentatively February 25th at 9 am; this was agreed to. She will send out a notice. [Note: The class was cancelled due to a snow storm and will be rescheduled.]

Katherine asked about the bylaws or whatever that control the various aspects of the Historical Commission such as membership tenure. She took an action to ask Scott about this.

6. Next agenda

The tentative agenda for the next meeting on February 9, 2005 is:

1. Discussion of Linton application for demolition permit.
2. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting
3. Review of action items
4. Status of developments
5. New members
6. New business
7. Next agenda

Jrk 02/09/2005 – modified 3/8/2005

Meeting with Bob Wise and David Sweet on January 21, 2005

Primary purpose was to discuss demolition criteria as a follow-up to Ordinance Task Force meeting on January 4th.

It was noted that East Goshen had limitations when the ‘demolition’ exceeded 50% of structure. Also, the Township has binders from the Brandywine Conservancy on this issue in section 7.

It was decided that John K. would continue commenting on the North Conventry zoning and forward comments and questions to David Sweet over the next month or so. John K. would then outline a new EB ordinance for comment. Then it would be decided whether Bob Wise and/or David Sweet should get further involved.

Participation of the EBHC in the new comprehensive plan was discussed. John K. affirmed the EBHC’s intention to participate. David S. said he would send John K. examples of historic sections of comprehensive plans. David S. said that the plan would require completion of the new Historic Resources Inventory within a year; John K. thought this wouldn’t be a problem.

Briefly discussed Bob W.’s plan for certification of Gurthriesville as a Historic District. Plan is just over \$7000. This includes National Registry. To just certify as an Act 167 state Historic District would be very easy and might not require a public meeting though this would be politically preferred. 167 certification would give Gurthriesville all the protection we want but wouldn’t give the homeowners to same benefits including access to grants, tax write-offs for renovation, prestige (with appreciated values for structures). As part of the application Bob mentioned that the Board of Supervisors would have to submit a draft change to the Zoning Ordinances mentioning Gurthriesville’s status as an Historic District. John mentioned that he would like to include some of the Historic Resources excluded in the 1999 DOE.

Meeting with Board of Supervisors on February 3, 2005

Attended 7:30 am meeting.

Bob Wise went over his proposal indicating that it was for National Historic Registry. Briefly indicated that 167 certification would be easier/cheaper and could be done first.

It was decided to hold a meeting with owners in late spring. Scott Piersol would arrange for notification in the “Milemarker”. This would include all Township residents. Based on this meeting, the Board would decide what course to follow, i.e., 167 certification and/or National Registry.

After meeting, Bob Wise said he would send his presentation to John K. He also indicated that he thought inviting the PHMC was inappropriate though Jane Davidson might be an asset. We discussed having refreshments at the meeting.