

SPRINGETTSBURY TOWNSHIP
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
MAY 22, 2014
MINUTES

In attendance were Dr. Luther Sowers, Kevin Eck, Steve Smith, Turk Pierce, June Frick and Sharon Tapp of the committee and Angela Liddick representing the township.

No demolition permits were reported.

Sharon said the York/Adams Smart Growth Coalition did not have a preservation meeting last month, but she or June will attend any future meetings on preservation.

Angie reported that Terry Downs is having some family issues and has been unable to investigate seven properties to be potentially added to the historic preservation list.

Steve said that of the 10 properties he investigated from the 1860 map, the only one still standing is at 3103 E. Market St. The owner, Sue Cody of Florida, allowed Jane Heller, Jim Rudisill and Architect Mark Shermeyer to tour the house. Jim's investigation showed the house was built about 1825 and occupied by Peter deBarth. Contrary to rumor, Lafayette never visited this property. Steve traced the list of owners, which included Dr. Jacob Hay, 1832-1850; the Smyser family, 1850-1891; William S. Dietz, 1891-1905; and the Myers family, 1905-2000, when it was purchased by Cody for \$40,000. The house is in deplorable shape, with holes in the roof, windows broken, sagging beams and the door in the back falling off. Cody rejected an offer from Brookline Properties to stabilize it. She is seeking to sell it for \$400,000, as it could provide access to seven landlocked acres in back of the property. Jane is trying to get the township to do something. Angie said even if a complaint is filed, the owner has to be notified and it takes time for any action.

Steve also reported he toured 2901 Whiteford Road with Architect Jim Williams and the owner, Connie Herr of Lancaster. The 1755 dating of this house was for a log cabin in the back, which was torn down when Mercantile Safe Deposit and Trust Co. occupied the property in 1989. The front part of the house dates to 1830, but the bank gutted the first and second floors. Herr would like to lease it for use as a bank (the previous tenant, PNC bank, moved out), as it's set up for that. Prospective tenants say the township would require a 100-car lot, but Angie said that's not true. An historic aspect to this property, in addition to the "witness tree," is that Confederate soldiers camped there when they came through York prior to the Battle of Gettysburg.

Steve presented a statement at the May 8 supervisors' meeting relaying the two resolutions our committee adopted last month in support of the Friends of Camp Security's long-range plan and to build a parking area at the south end of the Camp Security property. Unfortunately those proposals had not been given to the supervisors, but it is expected they will receive them at the May 22 meeting. Steve said Supervisor Mark Swomley was unhappy with "shaming" via social media to prevent the sale of the Ettlne property on E. Market St. last summer. Steve suggested using the 2901 Whiteford Road property as a home for the Springettsbury Township Historical society where artifacts and displays, including some from Camp Security, could be exhibited.

The \$100,000 a year rental price precludes this, but Supervisor Bill Schenk suggested using the farmhouse next to the township building for such a project and Supervisor Julie Landis suggested the former visitors bureau by the township park on Whiteford Road. June wondered how artifacts could be protected at such a site. The supervisors suggested using zoning, building codes and deed restrictions as tools for preservation.

Steve discussed his work on clarifying the 2001 "Top 100" list. He said Shermeyer's dates were approximations in some cases. He identified nine properties that were associated with well-known people, including 2901 Whiteford Road and 2840 Whiteford Road, the Myers Mansion now occupied by Christmas Tree Hill. Dr. Sowers said he had information on some of the occupants of the other properties.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Steve, seconded by June.

Respectfully submitted,
Turk Pierce