

SPRINGETTSBURY TOWNSHIP
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
MARCH 27, 2014
MINUTES

In attendance were Steve Smith, June Frick, Lois Miller, Lee Davis, Turk Pierce, Sharon Tapp and Kevin Eck of the committee; interested citizens Jane Heller and Jim Williams, A.I.A.; and Trisha Lang and Angie Liddick, representing the township. Lee chaired the meeting in the absence of Luther Sowers, whose wife was in the hospital because of a fall.

The Feb. 27 minutes were approved on a motion by Steve, seconded by Sharon, with the corrections that it's Jim Meek, not Meeks, the asking price for the property at 2901 Whiteford Road is \$650,000, not \$690,000, and the new township fire station will be located on Commons Drive, not Eastern Blvd. Lee thanked Turk for his work as secretary.

There were no applications for demolition permits.

Terry Downs has not been able to complete his study of seven properties that may be added to the historic preservation list because of the weather, Trisha reported.

Sharon has not yet been able to meet with anyone from the York/Adams Smart Growth Coalition, but she said all we need to do to join the group is to sign a resolution. She moved we do this, Steve seconded and after unanimous passage, the committee members signed the resolution. June said she would try to attend meetings of the group.

Steve reported that Jim Meek, arbor culturist, has estimated that the "witness tree" at 2901 Whiteford Road dates to 1755. Meek said he could do maintenance on the tree, which is encroached on by the road and a parking lot. The tree is in adequate health, he said, and some sycamores live to be 400 years old. Steve said the public would be upset if the tree was cut down, and he will draft a statement on the history of the property which could be presented to the supervisors. Sharon noted when her family had the farm in the area farmhands lived in the house, but the exterior is worth preserving. Trisha said a traffic light is planned for the adjacent entrance to the York Galleria, when traffic warrants, but she doesn't know if a turning lane is planned which would impact the tree. Turk said there are no trees near Camp Security that would have been there when the camp was.

Kevin was approved as a committee member at the previous supervisors' meeting. He is 35, a York County native, a graduate of Eastern High School, York Technical institute and York College with a history degree, and has lived in the township 5 1/2 years. He has participated in a study of historic buildings in Manchester Twp.

Trisha said there has been no winnowing of the list of historic properties this year, and this needs to be done. Sharon said we need parameters to determine which buildings should be listed. Trisha said it's not just the age of the buildings. Kevin said Manchester Twp. used old maps and deed searches. Steve had an 1860 map of Springettsbury Township which showed 214 buildings, 194 of which were houses. In Manchester Twp. 68% of buildings of that vintage still stand,

which would mean roughly 150 buildings in Springettsbury Twp. Steve used Google Earth and Trisha said the township has a firm which can work with that. Turk pointed out that there are a lot of buildings older than 1860, which would make it difficult to pick the top 100. Steve noted age is not the only criteria, some buildings have been modified. Trisha said if we list 500 buildings, we could have them in different categories. Lee said we need qualifying criteria. Trisha said the township's definition of historic parrots the national definition, but we could change it. Jim said we don't have to conform to national criteria, but maps from every 30 years would help us make decisions. Steve said in 1798 there was a list of those paying the glass tax, but the first map indicating properties was in 1860. Jim said there are some more recent buildings that need to be preserved. Steve said he would try to take a look at 10 buildings per month and report to the committee. Trisha cautioned against duplication of effort, as some buildings are well-documented and in our records. Lee gave Steve a key to the committee's filing cabinet. Kevin said he could help Steve, especially after school is out May 15. Jane said don't take too long to revise the list, as some key properties could be gone by then. She said the county is seeking a grant to repair the Strickler house, by the jail, which the county owns. Jane thinks the township Planning Commission is not sensitive to possible demolition of historic buildings.

Trisha reported the township has supported the committee's joining the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, and we should be getting e-mail and mail from that group.

Trisha also felt the committee needs to make a monthly report to the supervisors. Sharon suggested that someone from the committee could go to the supervisors meetings on the second Thursdays (they also meet on the fourth Thursdays). Lois moved in favor of this, with Steve seconding. If no one from the committee is available, Trisha would present the report. The report would have to be on the supervisors' agenda. Turk said he would try to prepare such a report and e-mail it to the rest of the committee.

Steve said the current fire station on Market St. was built in 1958. The previous station across the street, now the Quick 6, was built in 1931.

June said the building two doors east of the fire station has had the brush cleared and the first-floor windows boarded up, but the second-floor windows are broken. Trisha said the township has a property maintenance code, but the owner of this property is based out of town.

Respectfully submitted,
Turk Pierce