

January 29, 2013.

Historic Preservation Committee

Springettsbury Township

Additional notes from meeting with Richard Arcuri regarding the Pfaltzgraff Barn/Susquehanna Bank project.

On Jan. 29 members of the Springettsbury Historic Preservation Committee met at Susquehanna Bank with Richard Arcuri, building project and leasing manager for the bank. Attending from the committee were Dr. Luther Sowers, Steve Kohler, Turk Pierce, Mickey Monson and Lee Davis, plus Jim Williams, A.I.A.

Arcuri explained about the bank's plan to raze the Pfaltzgraff barn across the street from the bank's current location on Whiteford Road. He said the lease on the current building ends Oct. 31 and they need to be out by Sept. 30. He said bids for the new building were to be opened Jan. 30 and there were four bidders. He expects to get approval from the township Planning Commission Feb. 7 and from the supervisors Feb. 28. A small addition to the barn which contains electrical equipment will be saved, as this affects other businesses in the area. The bank has leased the ground for 15 years from a developer in Tennessee, which has purchased it from Bank of America.

Jim noted the barn was a visually important part of the whole area and wondered if it could be adapted to the bank's use. He mentioned 20 percent federal tax credits for preserving historic buildings, and added that even though the barn was not built until 1950 (on older foundations) it could be considered historic. He said the greenest thing a developer can do is to start with an existing building and turn it to a new use.

Arcuri said the new building will be a 3,000-square-foot branch bank, identical to other branches for branding purposes. Susquehanna Bank is based in Lititz, but has branches in four states. There will be parking for 120 cars. He said it is a \$2 million project and \$180,000 is already spent, so there is no turning back. He said engineering studies started last July and the township was aware of the bank's plans.

Mickey said tearing down the building would be a public relations problem for the bank and if there's any way the bank would change its mind, maybe because the project bids were too high, the committee would be glad to help find alternatives.

Dr. Sowers said we were just sorry we didn't know about the project before last week and that was the consensus of the committee.