

SPRINGETTSBURY TOWNSHIP
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 27, 2014
MINUTES

In attendance were Dr. Luther Sowers, Turk Pierce, June Frick, Lois Miller and Steve Kohler of the committee; Sharon Tapp and Stephen H. Smith, who were to be confirmed as committee members by the supervisors that evening; Larry Crumling, Terry Downs, Jane Heller, Karl Zimmerman and Jim Williams, A.I.A., interested citizens; and Trisha Lang and Angie Liddick, representing the township.

The January minutes were approved on a motion by Lois, second by Dr. Sowers.

Demolition permits have been issued for the former Denny's Restaurant and the former Tom's gas station at Mt. Rose Ave. and Camp Betty Washington Road. In addition, Trisha reported the current township fire station on Market St. at Mills St. will be demolished as soon as the new fire station on Commons Drive is ready, probably May or June, to make way for an Auto Zone. Dr. Sowers said the fire station was built in the 1950s.

Terry reported weather had prevented him from studying seven properties which may be added to the historic preservation list. Trisha said all property owners had been contacted and had no objection to Terry visiting, two of them asking to be notified as to when he would come.

Sharon said she had not heard from the Realtor she met with about listing certain properties as historic. Jim said it would be good to list historic real estate with local Realtors. Trisha said the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions has \$100 annual dues, but will have a semi-annual meeting in Philadelphia this year. Lee moved that we join this group. This was seconded by June and passed unanimously. Sharon said she would attend the next meeting of the York/Adams Smart Growth Coalition and report back, so it can be decided if our committee would join this group.

Steve Smith said he met with Jim Meek to discuss the age of the "witness tree" at 2901 Whiteford Road. He said Meeks felt that because it was a meadow tree, not a forest tree, it grew faster. He will continue to investigate. Steve said he is also trying to document the age of the house on the property, which is now for sale as a residential property for \$650,000. Trisha noted that price would be because of the land value. Steve wondered if any trees on the hill above Camp Security would be old enough to be considered "witness trees."

An application to join the committee was received from Kevin Eck, a history major at York College who did a study documenting 200 homes in Manchester Township that dated back to the Civil War. His application will be passed on to Township Manager John Holman. With the expansion of the committee to nine members there is one vacancy. Jim suggested that Scott Butcher, who has a background in historic architecture, be asked to join the committee. The problem is he no longer lives in the township, though he has a business here. On a motion by June, seconded by Lois, Scott was asked to attend as an advisory consultant. This was passed

unanimously. Trisha said he would be welcome at our meetings and maybe the supervisors could be asked to drop the residency requirement.

Trisha explained that the Certified Local Government program, which works through the state, has five criteria for members. We must have a committee, get public input, have a list of resources, abide by any new state rules, and enforce state or local regulations on preservation. She said only the last one is problematical.

Larry presented a report he made to the supervisors when he was unsuccessfully running for supervisor last year. He said he had promised voters he would preserve historic sites. He had also given the York County Planning Commission some sample ordinances from Lancaster County which included a "cooling off" period to hold off demolition and seek other buyers. He suggested an Historic Preservation Trust, to be funded by public contributions and a 1 percent part of the township's taxes on trash haulers, cable TV, developers and the occupation privilege tax. He said coordination is needed with the township's planning and zoning committees. Jane said Spring Grove and Lower Windsor Township have similar ordinances and Trisha said they are fairly common in Lancaster County. She said results from the survey on preservation last October showed about half were in favor of preservation and about half felt property owners should be allowed to do what they wish. The commercial property owners were against these ordinances. She said we are trying for a long-term preservation strategy as part of a comprehensive plan. We don't have the money to be a savior, but seek consensus on what our role is. Larry said the new board of supervisors may change their attitude toward preservation. Jane said we need an ordinance to postpone demolition and a different mindset on the township boards.

Karl said he was looking for mile markers on the old Route 30 in the township that had been erected after the Wrightsville Bridge was built after the First World War. Steve said he might be able to help.

In discussion of trying to get a list of a manageable number of properties to be preserved in the township, June noted some have been torn down or modified. Trisha said once the list is complete it can be posted online.

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

Respectfully submitted
Turk Pierce