

SPRINGETTSBURY TOWNSHIP
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 24, 2013
MINUTES

In attendance were Dr. Luther Sowers, June Frick, Mickey Monson, Lois Miller, Steve Kohler and Turk Pierce of the committee; interested citizens Sharon Tapp, Terry Downs and Bill Hocke; and Trisha Lang and Angela Liddick representing the township.

The only demolition permit is for the former IRS building on Eastern Blvd., which was not deemed to have any historical value.

Trisha thanked all for helping with the public meeting on historical preservation held the previous evening. About 43 members of the public attended. Total survey responses, both from the meeting and in the mail, were 159 (27% of the mailed number). Of those, 40% were for township involvement in historical preservation, 21% were against township involvement, and 39% wanted the township to only provide guidelines. In the survey taken at the meeting, 80% said the event expanded their knowledge of historical preservation. 83% said the township should use advocacy to preserve historic sites, 60% suggested using resources, and 33% wanted regulations. One respondent wanted no regulation, and one said regulation is the only course. Trisha said the meeting was a first step, and she will report full results to the board of supervisors Nov. 20. She will see if they want to spend staff time, pass an ordinance or use some other process.

June said several attended whose homes were on the committee's list of property to be preserved. Some said homes on that list shouldn't be, because of renovations. Dr. Sowers noted there was lots of interest in the photos the committee displayed, which engendered discussion. Everyone agreed with Trisha we are on the right track.

Mickey said Lori Mitrick, a former township supervisor who attended the meeting, expressed an interest in being on our committee. June said we need to expand the size of the committee, as Sharon is interested in joining, and Bill said he would be interested. Mickey reported Stephen Smith is also interested. Dr. Sowers had a copy of the original resolution founding the committee July 25, 1991, and the number of members was nine, written in. Township Manager John Holman has subsequently said the current limit is seven. It was moved by June and seconded by Lois that the committee send a letter to Mr. Holman asking that the supervisors allow the committee to expand to 11 members. Sharon noted the destruction of the Pfaltzgraff barn has generated interest in preservation.

Mickey said that four properties need resource forms to be added to the preservation list. Terry will give an estimate on the cost of this at the next meeting.

Mickey also noted she is having trouble getting in touch with American Tree Experts to authenticate the age of the "witness tree" on Whiteford Road. June said there are other experts and Trisha will look into it.

Steve asked that the times of the meetings be put on the agenda. Sharon said the time was wrong in the township newsletter, noon instead of 12:30. June added we need to put more information into the township newsletter.

Mickey said she will contact the owner of the Ettlne property, which has been saved from purchase by Dollar General, to keep our interest known. Sharon suggested keeping in touch with Realtors to be alerted to any potential sale of historic properties.

June will make reservations for the annual Christmas luncheon for noon, Dec. 19, at Knickers Pub at Heritage Hills.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Turk Pierce