

WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Westtown Municipal Building, 1039 Wilmington Pike
Tuesday, March 12 2024 - 7:00 PM

In attendance: Chair Pamela Boulos (PB), and Members David Walter (DW), Dan Campbell (DC), Steven MacCarthy (SM), Stephen Wahrhaftig (SW), and Stephen Dabrowski (SD). Absent was Patrick McDonough. Also present was Mila Carter, Assistant Township Manager.

Call to Order

Pam Boulos called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Mr. Dabrowski announced that he was not accepting his appointment to be the Commission's Secretary. Ms. Boulos asked whether other Commission members would like to be appointed. No one has volunteered. Pam Boulos wondered whether Patrick McDonough would accept the appointment. Mr. Wahrhaftig agreed to take minutes for this meeting.

Adoption of Agenda (SW/DW) 6-0

SW made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. DW seconded. All were in favor of the motion.

Election of Officers

Stephen Wahrhaftig noted that at the previous meeting when the Commission made nominations, the nominees were not present. He suggested for nominees to officially accept appointments. Pam Boulos has accepted the nomination as the Chair. Dave Walter has accepted the nomination as the Vice-Chair. Pam Boulos noted that the appointment of the Secretary is still pending.

Approval of Minutes from February 13, 2024

Pam Boulos announced that due to the minutes not being available prior to the meeting, they are tabled until the next meeting.

Public Comment (Non-agenda items)

None.

Old Business

1. America 250 Update

The Commission members provided new members with an explanation of what the America 250 organization was, along with some details of Chester County's plans. Dan Campbell discussed the current call-in meeting that Chester County had on the topic, which was uneventful. Pam Boulos explained that any Commission member may call in to the monthly Zoom calls by visiting the county web site. Dan Campbell noted that there were no action items needed at this time.

New Business

1. Welcome a new member

Pam Boulos welcomed a new member, Steve MacCarthy, to the Commission. Steve MacCarthy discussed his experience and interest in joining the Commission.

2. Joint Board and HC Meeting

The Commission discussed the upcoming workshop with the Board which is scheduled for Monday, March 18th at 6 pm. Stephen Wahrhaftig provided a one-page report for discussion that included last year's projects and initiatives that were successful and went well and items that fell short of the Commission goals. The HC discussed the items on that list and made several suggestions. The HC agreed that the major goal for 2024 is to have the proposed amendments to the historic preservation ordinance completed. Ms. Carter suggested to include a summary of proposed amendments for the upcoming discussion. Mr. Wahrhaftig agreed to make changes and provide the report to Ms. Carter for distribution to the Board.

3. Historic Markers

Dave Walter presented plans and verbiage for a marker to be placed near the historic Huey Ruins site located at the northeast of the intersection of S New Street and General Howe Drive. The Commission also recapped the criteria for choosing historic markers suggested by Mr. Wahrhaftig, which was discussed at the previous meeting. Ms. Carter provided a summary of completed work at the site for the benefit of new members. Mr. Wahrhaftig also raised a question about the fate of relics that were discovered on site during the archaeological dig done by the West Chester University students. Dave Walter believed that the items were at the University for further analysis. Mr. Wahrhaftig was concerned that these items could be lost and suggested to confirm their location. Ms. Carter asked whether the dig was fully complete. Pam Boulos suggested to reach out to Ray Sarnacki, former HC member, who was initially involved with the archaeological dig project to verify where the discovered items were and the status of the project.

Pam Boulos made a motion to approve the proposed placement and verbiage for the marker to be placed at the Huey Ruins site owned and maintained by the Township. Steven MacCarthy seconded. All were in favor of the motion. (PB/SM) 6-0

Dave Walter recommended to present this information to the Board for their feedback. He also added that the cost of the marker was budgeted for this year. The HC agreed with his recommendation to gain the Board's opinion at the next meeting.

4. History Lecture – April 27

Ms. Carter noted that the lecture dates have been posted on the Township website and will be announced in the upcoming Westtown Gazette. She asked whether any assistance was needed to prepare for the first lecture. Dave Walter confirmed that the HC would prefer to have virtual meeting capability as well as live streaming. Ms. Carter confirmed that it would be accommodated.

Public Comment (All Topics)

None.

Announcements

1. Dan Campbell announced that the Chester County Historic Preservation Network will meet on Saturday, March 23, 2024.

Adjournment (DW/PB) 6-0

Dave Walter made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 pm. Pam Boulos seconded. All were in favor of the motion.

Next HC meeting: **April 9th @ 7:00 pm**

HC Representative at next Board of Supervisors Meeting:

- **Monday, April 1 @ 7:30 pm** – David Walter/Pamela Boulos

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Wahrhaftig
Historical Commission Acting Secretary

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