

Lower Makefield Township Historical Commission Meeting

June 22, 2022

Attendees:

- Joe Camaratta, Historical Commission
- Helen Heinz, Historical Commission
- Thomas Argentieri, Historical Commission
- Chris Greeley, Historical Commission
- James Nycz, Historical Commission

Absent:

- Victor Fiori, Historical Commission
- Daniel Grenier, Board of Supervisors

Meeting opens and Joe reviews the agenda

Minutes from May – no comments or notes.

Motion to accept the minutes from Thomas, second from James. Minutes unanimously approved.

Action items:

- SHPO (State Historic Preservations Office) Baseline Survey. Joe added the Octagonal Schoolhouse site, the Quarry Road graveyard and the Edgehill Garden. (done)
- Develop funding priorities for historic preservations for the 2022-2023 budget
 - Joe and Helen provided funding priorities to Dan for the Board of Supervisors:
 - Repair of stone wall at Slate Hill Cemetery (a National Register of Historical Places site) (\$5,000 for materials and transportation, labor provided by volunteers)
 - Phase I archaeological survey at Patterson Farm to support National Register submission (\$20,000).
 - Acquisition of octagonal schoolhouse site on Oxford Valley Road, and development of site interpretation plan (\$5,000 acquisition cost, \$5,000 for plan development)
- Want to clarify with Jim Majewski re the Trolio proposal in Edgewood Village. It doesn't look like we will be officially engaged going forward. They are going to the Zone Review Board. We put this into the minutes for the last meeting. When it goes to the ZRB, Joe can make a public comment and/or send a letter to make sure our concerns are heard.
 - They are going to the ZRB to get a variance. If you look at the last paragraph of Jim's email, the Historic Commission would provide input if they get a variance.
- Dendrochronology – talked about it at the May 31 Board of Supervisors meeting. One of the things they talked about was putting funds aside for a master plan for Patterson Farm. There was a question of whether this would be included. Supervisor Weiss thinks that BoS would provide approval and the Patterson Farm Preservation would set the budget.

- Helen talked to the Daughters of the American Revolution. There has been silence from their side – she has sent two emails. Pattern Farm Preservation Group – they would be interested. It is going to cost between 5-7k. We should plan for 5 different pulls of wood.
 - Helen talked to Dan about the barns and he is going to ask for a tour before any vote on the master plan.
 - We have to show that the dating will help with National Historic Registry application.
 - We'd want to do this before any master plan approvals. We need to know how old the structures are or you can't plan for their use.
- Joe – the question is around funding. There is support for doing it. The question is who is going to pay for it.
 - The ceiling for most RFP is \$19,000. I think for 5-7k, we can pull 5-6 good samples and send them to the lab.
 - James – I remember hearing that Donna had the money and they just needed approval.
 - Conversation around getting a proposal from Mike Worthington and the Oxford Group.
 - Thomas is running this down
 - After reviewing the site in person, Mark Cuba is sticking with his original proposal but Helen to follow-up on an update.
- Helen – Motion to seek funding approval from the Board of Supervisors and say we'll seek two different bids for the job.
 - Thomas – Second
 - All vote for it (5 votes) and motion passed.
- Skipping down to Letter G
 - We had been talking about looking at the info stored in the township building and on the electronic drive.
 - Chris G been through the hard drive and needs to go through the Google drive.
 - Jim may have freed up a computer and may be able to give us a laptop with the archival software on it
 - Chris to follow up
- There was a meeting on the sewer proceeds. There was another meeting last week on the same topic. On May 31 they talked about the master plan at Patterson Farm. Two major things came out of that
 - They put aside \$300,000 for the development of a master plan for Patterson Farm
 - They authorized the ad hoc committee to continue with their work and lead the development of that master plan
- What was muddled was what the master plan was. A lot of people had different impressions on what should be there.
 - Joe – I would expect there to be potential uses for those buildings and what needs to be done to see that soon. What about environmental conditions, engineering

for the buildings – none of those come into a master plan because you have to know what you are going to do with the building.

- Dennis Steadman is going to get clarity on the scope.
- Joe – The money has been authorized. I guess it is up now to get the ad hoc committee to get a plan on timing and steps.
 - I hope he outlines the scope.
- Joe – There is a grant from the Historical and Archival Records Care (HARC) Grant. It is \$5,000 if we do it on our own and double that if we do it with a partner organization.
 - You can also apply through the SHPO as well. It is worthwhile because we can use other opportunities or it goes to next year's budget.
 - Chris to work on a grant proposal before the next meeting.
- Last topic of July and August meetings. We usually don't have an August meeting because of vacations. We'll skip that.
 - Helen will be out.
 - We'll go on July 13