

Lower Makefield Township Historical Commission Meeting

June 14, 2023

Attendees (in person):

- Joe Camaratta, Historical Commission
- Helen Heinz, Historical Commission
- Thomas Argentieri, Historical Commission
- Chris Greeley, Historical Commission
- Victor Fiori, Historical Commission
- Mitch Tany, Historical Commission
- Cathy Hanville, Historical Commission
- Lisa Pellegrino, Historical Commission
- Jim Sachs, Historical Commission
- Jeff Bedser, Historical Commission (remotely)
- Jim Majewski, Community Development Director
- Megan McNish (Eastern Region Community Preservation Coordinator PA State Historic Preservation Office)

Absent

John Lewis, Board of Supervisors

Agenda

Existing Business (7:30p start)

Approval of minutes for May 2023

- No comments
- Unanimously approved with revisions.
- **Action Item: Send to Katie**

Presentation by Megan McNish on the CLG Program (Eastern Region Community Preservation Coordinator PA State Historic Preservation Office) PA SHPO

Slate Hill (Radar and Cleanup)

- Ground penetrating radar. A major part of the Slate Hill Cemetery (Southern) was a Quaker cemetery and they didn't put up markers. We know there are unmarked graves and a lot of markers have been lost to time. We had the Crime Lab come with the ground penetrating radar. They did 2/3 of cemetery. It is remarkable - wide open field and it is a grave every 4 feet. The unit had a GPS receiver on it so it is keeping track and they are going to provide a map.
- Hoping to find indicia of Quaker graves or pit graves (including small pox graves from the late 1600s).
- One of the things that we might be able to pull out of this - headstones that are a foot or two under the ground over time. Could be rocks - but could be useful. We can go around and figure it out.
- We have a 1920s era map of the graveyard - many of the things marked are gone. We can overlap the survey map with the 1926 map.
- Victor took some pictures with his drone. Going to go back and take another shot at it. Talked about doing a 3D scan. We could apply for a Keystone Grant for a \$3,500 grant for the 3D and Megan McNish suggested we talk with archaeologists.

Slate Hill Cleanup

- Cleanup - great turnout. Scout troops showed up. 5 or 6 troops. Looks really great.
- Monica developed the masterplan for the cemetery and presented to the Township. Tom presented the education project and is moving forward with the CLG mini-grant for that. Monica got budgetary approval for the projects.
- One of the items was a report on the trees which came in today. Recommendations for removing dangerous limbs. Arborist recommended that the center locust tree be removed because it is hollow and in danger of coming down. It is a beautiful tree. Maybe we can top it. If the problem can be resolved it would be better than taking it down.
- There were trees - half a dozen - they recommended pruning. Only remember seeing one removal recommendation. Will share with the group. We'll put it on the July agenda.
- Every Wed 10a Tom and Monica are cleaning headstones.

Cataloging of Materials

- Grant proposal is ongoing with a draft expected on July 15.
- Lisa has volunteered to work on the grant and Mitch will take some pictures (ledgers, deeds)

Ad Hoc

- Watch the YouTube for the June meeting- architect goes through what they've done and what the key success factors are supposed to be there to preserve Patterson Farm.
- Scan the QR code - June 26 at 7p at the Community Center - public meeting. Please attend. Scan QR - takes you to the site.

New Business

- Next week - walk through at the Point. Township is inviting someone from the Historic Commission to understand what is being proposed. Joe is not in town. Helen and Victor will go.
- Torbet Farm - next to Patterson Farm - above Newtown Road - would have to retain 51 of 107 acres. Talking about putting Creamery Road straight through. House is Circa 1890 - Sears House. We were not allowed in any of the properties. We need to write a position on saving the Sears House. We want the cut stone from the buildings.

July/August Meetings

- July 12
- August (skip) - Working group for the Ghost Tour. Add Ghost Tour to the July agenda.

Adjourned at 9:26