

Lower Makefield Township Historical Commission Meeting

January 11, 2023

Attendees:

- Joe Camaratta, Historical Commission
- Helen Heinz, Historical Commission
- Thomas Argentieri, Historical Commission
- Chris Greeley, Historical Commission
- John Lewis, Board of Supervisors

Absent:

- Victor Fiori, Historical Commission

Welcome to John and quick introductions from committee members and from John.

Time to elect or re-elect our officers.

- Motion from Helen to re-elect current board in their positions. Seconded by Tom and vote was unanimous.

Review of 2022 goals and achievements. Joe to send that over to John to forward to Board of Supervisors.

Discussion of 2023 Goals

- Slate Hill
 - Discussion of Slate Hill Cemetery project. Joe has been doing some work in creating a master plan. With Tom's help, they have spoken to someone who will come in and reset the markers that are sinking into the ground (not the ones that are buried).
 - In terms of creating that plan and going through, we are going to apply for a Keystone Application Grant. Joe and Tom are going to work on that. Helen is going to help out too.
 - Helen is supposed to find the last submission for a grant.
 - One of the only documented Quaker cemeteries from the 17th century. Also, tie it closer to the African American cemetery and the soldiers buried in the segregated section.
- America 2026
 - County is working on 2026 plans. Washington Crossing is working on it.
 - Last time we brainstormed some topics. We are looking for whether someone wants to work with Monica to see what kind of plans we can put together.
 - Helen has done a map of houses and structures that existed when Washington was here.
 - Helen and potentially Victor to work on this with Monica.
- Motion to accept 2023 goals and objectives. Tom makes a motion and Helen seconds it. Vote is unanimous.

Existing business

- Last year we applied for a grant to catalog our materials.
 - Grant was denied and looking for feedback

- There are grants available to CLGs (Certified Local Governments) – certain CLG grants. This would be a perfect project for this grant. She is going to let us know when it opens. She said she would provide an example for a construction grant at Slate Hill
 - We got together and did a rough review. We need to do a second review on the materials that we found and do some more cataloging.
 - John noted that on Monday the new Township Manager started and hopefully he'll find all the assets and if there is a warehouse of old materials, he should find it. We should follow-up with Jim on that
 - **Action Item – Bring the group together to go through materials again.**
- Victor Facebook calendar
 - Going to follow-up with him
- Patterson Farm Resubmission
 - Patterson Farm was the crown jewel of the area in terms of value
 - Joe spoke to Ben Harvey who reviews National Registry Applications. Both properties are eligible for the National Register. We need to update that.
 - He appreciated that we were looking at the agricultural history of the farm. He would be happy to review the information we had. He asked us to send anything we are working on including a site plan and pictures. Want to send to him and get on a call for feedback.
 - **Action Items:** Joe will look at the pictures to see if they are adequate to show elevations and pull the site plans from the ad hoc committee report.
 - Tom to pull the info that we are currently working on.
- Slate Hill
 - Want to apply for a Keystone Grant for repairs
 - Working with the township on cleanup of the site and landscaping
 - Tom reached out to the Barn Company that buys old barns and sells them. They reconstruct them in a historically accurate way. Got the name of two masons from them.
 - Keith Childs is from Blue Bell but knew the cemetery and could describe it. He's booked through the Spring. I am hoping we can meet this weekend to look at it.
 - Tom reached out to John Van Selas. I just got his voice mail.
 - Helen mentioned that there was someone associated with the Newtown Cemetery and he said he would clean up and restore and recut our oldest stone (the Sharp Stone) and one other for free. It might be the oldest tombstone on the East Coast and maybe the country.
 - Keystone Grant requires a 50/50 match. Apply by March 1. Awarded in the fall.
 - Someone offered us free stone in the past if we sent a truck. May want to tap them again.
 - We need to make a decision before the next meeting. Once Tom gets those quotes and Joe gets quotes from Chris, Joe and Tom will look to put together a recommendation and work on grant.
 - **Action Item:** Joe to follow-up on examples
- Ad Hoc
 - Master Plan RFP is out. Two responses. Just last week the two vendors made a presentation. Tomorrow the committee will get together and make a recommendation for the Board of Supervisors.