

## Lower Makefield Township Historical Commission Meeting

April 12, 2023

### Attendees (in person):

- 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

### Agenda

#### Existing Business (7:45p start)

- Approval of minutes for March 2023
  - No comments
  - Helen move to approve, Tom seconds. Unanimously approved.
  - **Action Item: Chris to send to Katie**
- Discussion of the HARC Grant
  - 2 LMT Supervisors on the Board of Trustees at the BCCC if we need access
  - Need two letters of support
    - Two women doing research on the tavern that would benefit from it
    - Maybe Yardley Historical Society?
    - Bucks County Historical Society may be another
      - Helen has a contact there.
    - **Action item: Add the HARC notes to these minutes when they are sent out**
  - Daughter of the American Revolution?
    - Helen has a contact there
  - **Action Item: Helen to follow up with Karen on the video tape and Helen has a CD**
- Facebook Content Calendar
  - Victor has made progress on creating a new slide show - going to spend a few days in June to take pictures and video and will have a final product in August
- Resubmission of Patterson Farm
  - There is an expired determination of eligibility. We have been working off of that 2006 determination. PA SHPA wants to review that every 5 years.
  - In order to do that, we need to demonstrate that the buildings are still intact. The Ad Hoc Committee has those so Joe sent them already.
  - We need to submit a statement around architectural or agricultural significance.
  - We need the determination of eligibility for grant purposes and for Section 106 reviews (like if the government wants to run a 95 extension). Without that the site has no protection.
  - The Ad Hoc Committee has engaged a group to come in and do a write up on the architectural significance of the buildings by the end of April.
  - Joe and Helen working on agricultural significance. Once we have the architectural info, we submit that with the agricultural information and get the determination.
  - There was a write-up that was already done around the agricultural easement.

- **Action Items: Joe to followup with the architects around availability of architectural research and connect with Helen.**
- Slate Hill Cemetary
  - Monica showed up at the last meeting with a specific interest in the cemetary
  - Joe and Tom communicated with her and filled her in on the grant application that was submitted and the things that are planned for the future which got her excited.
  - Started doing some research around cleaning headstones. There is a solution called D2 - Tom ordered a gallon of that.
  - They tried it out yesterday and cleaned a few headstones. The granite headstone cleaned up really nicely. It is a lot of work. Used a soft nylon brush and a natural bristle brush.
  - Would like to get the community involved
  - The township came in yesterday and did the cleanup and pulled out the downed trees.
  - There is a need for grounds cleanup (twigs, leaves, branches) and then the headstones.
  - Monica and Tom would like to propose to get the community involved to help rake up the debris.
  - A lot of stones that need to be cleaned. Do we wait until they've been reset?
  - The kit was \$89 - it is a big project and will cost some money. We used half a gallon cleaning three headstones and it is \$60/gallon.
  - Asked Monica to put together a masterplan for the cemetary
    - What needs to be done, what'll it cost and how long it'll take and necessary people-power.
      - Landscaping
      - Wall or railing
      - Markers
  - Excited about the ghost tour. Helen has the stories for all of them. Create QR codes and put them next to the markers so people can scan them and bring them to an audio of the story of that grave marker. We can make that permanent.
  - We'd need a permanent website - we could place it within the Township's website.
  - Re manpower - LMT Lions organization.
  - We could get a large group of volunteers and the Lions club could get people to come in.
  - Need to know when the Township is going to mow the lawn at the cemetary.
  - We should pick a date with a rain date and then some way of communicating it - like on LMT Facebook. Maybe John can reach out to the Lions, etc.
    - Have to noodle on the best way to reach out to these groups
    - Bring your own tools.
    - PA Hollowed Grounds (historic African American cemeteries) are holding Earth Day cleanups.
  - May 6 would be the date and May 7 is the rain date at 9am.
  - Motion to organize the cleanup date (Helen), second (Chris). Vote is unanimous.
  - We should have water bottles present.
  - **Action Item: Joe to inform David and Derek to alert them. Tom to advertise the cleanup day.**
- Ad Hoc Committee
  - Architectural Firm is engaged. Had meetings at the township building and have a meeting tomorrow night.
  - Interested in when they are going to hold public meetings. 40 Days after the kickoff. Kickoff was delayed because of contracting, so probably by beginning of June.
- New member approval

- Rather than saying no to people, we are going to expand the board. We have to update the resolution that creates the board. John is hoping we have that done for the next meeting and then some appointments.
- Quorum is solvable through a new resolution or reruiting.
- Maybe Katie can reach out to the candidates?
- Keep an eye on the meeting next Wednesday.
- CLG Grant
  - There is an opportunity to submit a grant.
  - Challenge is that the deadline is May 12
  - Max grant award is \$20k - cash match is a 10% administrative fee
  - There is a format for submitting.
  - We should be updating our list of historic properties every 10 years. Last one was more than 10 years ago.
  - Cemetary signs as a potential project. Best guess is we have stories for ~100 people.
    - Action Item: Tom can get a quote for 100 QR etched codes.
  - Two letters of support needed.
    - Maybe can use Monica and maybe Quaker Meeting
    - Joe will tell Monica we are chaning our pitch
    - For next year we'll update our survey and map
- Historic Township Tour