

**THORNBURY TOWNSHIP (CHESTER COUNTY)
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, February 19, 2014**

Present: Chris Lang, Molly Morrison, Randell Spackman, Michele Thackrah, Kris Walker.

1. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes was deferred until the commission's March meeting.

2. *The Gander* Article

Molly Morrison agreed to write an article for the spring issue on the importance of open space in a historic preservation context.

A relative of the family living in Pennyscroft, a Victorian house on Creek Road, has offered to write an article about that property, based on his research. He will send the draft article to Chris Lang for inclusion in *The Gander*.

3. Squire Cheyney Springhouse

The HPC has communicated to the supervisors its perspective about the importance of undertaking an appropriate and respectful restoration of the springhouse, which is currently in extreme disrepair, given its importance as a historic building and as the only structure in the new Squire Cheyney Park what will have any direct association with Squire Cheyney. The HPC encouraged the supervisors to engage Dale Frens, a preservation architect who has an extensive history with the property, to prepare appropriate plans and drawings prior to any work being done. The supervisors agreed to take that recommendation under advisement.

Kris Walker has been in touch with Jim Vaughn, PA State Historic Preservation Officer, who will help interpret the township's obligations to restore/improve the Squire Cheyney Springhouse. The springhouse is on the National Register for Historic Places. The HPC asked Kris to be the principal liaison on this project.

4. Oral History Project

Chris Lange reported that the oral history videos that we have completed are rich in content but poor in production quality. The HPC agreed to pursue a different production arrangement and two HPC members will be meeting with a videographer who has been recommended to them.

Chris has identified an interview prospect. Ann Healy, a West Chester resident who grew up on the Squire Cheyney property and was the sister of Elijah Dallett (who died last year) has agreed to participate.

5. Squire Cheyney Park Signage

The HPC will offer to take the lead on the Squire Cheyney Park signage, believing that the JHPC has the expertise and knowledge to create a concept plan, determine an interpretive focus, and draft signage content. The township has been in touch with a signage consultant, whose services, the HPC believes, may be of value in providing editing of content and production of signs.

We will seek an understanding of which aspects of sign production and installation are included in the current construction contract for the Squire Cheyney Park and will also seek to clarify the respective roles of the HPC and the signage consultant.

6. Brandywine Battlefield Preservation Plan

Chris distributed the newly completed plan and map atlas. HPC members expressed interest in being able to review the documents before they are turned over to the township for retention.

Randell reported that a Battle of Brandywine re-enactment is scheduled for May 17-18 at Sandy Holly Park in Birmingham Township. A large number of re-enactors and exhibitors are already lined up to participate.

Molly Morrison
Acting Commission Secretary

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 7:30 P.M.

(Approved via email distribution, April 12, 2014.)