

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
March 9th, 2020 - Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Lower Makefield Historical Commission (HC) was held on Monday March 9, 2020 in the Lower Makefield Township Municipal Building. Helen Heinz called the meeting to order at 7:02PM.

Those present: Helen Heinz, Chair & Treasurer
Barbara Nuzzolo
Ann Damron
Becky Diamond, Secretary
Christa McConaghy
Betty Sovinee, AOY

Treasurer's Report - Helen advised as to balance of Commission funds.

Financial - No bank account of our own, money held by the Township. Balance \$4667.90.

Minutes – Becky approved minutes from prior meeting. Ann seconded the motion. Helen reiterated that minutes should be sent to Barbara Ellison, Lower Makefield Township Manager's Assistant.

Artists of Yardley 10th Anniversary Party:

Betty Sovinee was present at the beginning of the meeting to get the correct timeline of the Janney/Brown House so that the AOY can relay correct information at their 10th Anniversary Party to be held on May 2 from 4-6 pm. Helen went through the dates and ownership with Betty, explaining lineage and background on the houses and owners.

Slate Hill Cemetery:

- Commission agreed the dates for marking the grave sites with new headstones to be April 19 at 1 pm. It was discussed to do the headstone planting on the Saturday before – April 11. Helen will look into this.
- Three gravestones are being replaced; three are totally new. The soldiers' names are Frame, Brogden and Harmen (located in the Colored Section of the cemetery); and Suber, Worthington and Vansant (white soldiers whose graves are located throughout the rest of the cemetery).
- Ann spoke with Ruth Logan of the Martha Washington Garden Club about planting flowers (likely petunias) in front of these and other soldiers' graves (a total of 20). It would be about 1 sq. foot per grave, so 3-4 flowers each. The Veterans will also put flags on the graves. Ruth mentioned that Hill's grave would be difficult because there are tree roots around the gravesite. She and Ann also discussed various trees that should come down and spice bushes that have re-seeded. April 18 was the suggested planting day. Helen

mentioned that as per Jim Majewski, the trees that border the PECO station will be removed this summer.

- Barb spoke with the offices of Perry Warren, Brian Fitzpatrick and Steve Santaserio, and they are interested and available to participate. They requested to be able to say a few words.
- Helen will coordinate with Scout Troops about probing the cemetery to locate grave sites that might be buried.
- Items that will be needed that day:
 - Canopy tent (Becky is ordering one)
 - Table (Barb or Becky has?)
 - Microphone
 - Program/Handout outlining the ceremony and listing a blurb about each of the soldiers (Christa will do)
 - Bugler – ask Veterans
 - Case of water (Barb will get)
- Helen will ask Eric to send out the press release.
- Helen and/or Christa would potentially make some opening comments at the ceremony.

Additional Items Discussed:

- Helen advised that the historic homes inventory is almost complete.
- Helen showed the group a map from American Water that outlines their plan for a water treatment plant assessment. She identified one place where there could be a house foundation and will notify American Water that they might need to do an archeological assessment before digging.
- Barbara advised that she has made progress in opening a dialogue with the Wiener family regarding the donating the Octagonal School House site, noting that they appear interested in negotiating.
- The township properties and plan reports will be put on hold until after April.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Diamond