

Lower Makefield Township Historical Commission Meeting
January 10, 2024

Attendees (in person):

- Joe Camaratta, Historical Commission
- Helen Heinz, Historical Commission
- Thomas Argentieri, Historical Commission
- Chris Greeley, Historical Commission (remote)
- Mitch Palin, Historical Commission
- Jeff Bedser, Historical Commission
- Lisa Pellegrino, Historical Commission (remote)
- Cathy Hanville, Historical Commission
- Jim Sachs, Historical Commission
- Monica Hinden, Volunteer
- Suzanne Blundi, Board of Supervisors

Missing

- Victor Fiori, Historical Commission

Agenda (Started at 7:29)

- Welcomed Suzanne Blundi, our Board of Supervisors Liaison for 2024
- Review and approval of December minutes.
 - Motion to accept the minutes as updated passed unanimously by all members.
- Treasurer report
 - Everyone has been reimbursed re Ghost Tour.
 - Budget for 2024 was approved.
- Election of officers for 2024.
 - Motion was made to reappoint existing officers for an additional year.
 - Motion passed unanimously by all members.
- 2023 Accomplishments Letter.
 - Joe will send to Township and Board of Supervisors and the Township can put it in our certified government certification.
 - Since the draft was sent out by Joe, he has added some additional points from Helen (speaking engagements).
 - We need to add Community Day at the park.
 - Joe also going to add that Slate Hill was submitted for a Community Initiative Award. Monica and Joe applied at the end of December.

[Monica and Cathy join at 7:37p]

- Motion to accept the accomplishment with changes unanimously passed. Joe to share with Board of Supervisors through Katie.
- Discussion of 2024 Goals and Objectives.
 - Carried over the projects that we are working on. Joe reviews list.

- Discussion of adding 3D Ground Penetrating Radar for the Spring at Slate Hill. May have a cost attached to it (\$300?) that wasn't in the budget. We need to follow-up.
- Discussion around planting around the outside wall of Slate Hill - could be a scout project, although Eagle Scout projects require 100 hours.
- Project list and owners for 2024
 - Slate Hill - Monica and Tom
 - Patterson Farm NRHP - Joe and Helen
 - Master Plan - Joe
 - Curate Resources: [REDACTED]
 - Catalog materials: Chris and Lisa
 - Resource Survey: Jeff and Mitch
 - America 2026 - Helen
 - Slate Hill Interpretation - Tom and Cathy
 - Ghost Walk - Monica
- Motion to pass goals and objectives passed unanimously

Existing Business

- CLG Grant
 - Due Feb 1
 - Put together a list of top candidates for consultants before holidays. Jeff started reaching out.
 - One enthusiastic response on a 3 year plan.
 - One other rejection and some no responses.
 - CHRS in Landsdale also wants to propose - they came in today.
 - Monica - We don't need to include any proposals - then we go to RFP stage if we get the Grant.
 - The proposal we got was split into three pieces geographically.
 - Monica has started a rough draft on the application. Monica will run it by everyone when it is more fleshed out.
 - One question Monica wants help on - we need two letters of support. Need to get those requests out.
 - Helen suggested Steve Santarsiero and Perry Warren.
 - We are also going to need letters for the cemetery grant too.
 - We should talk to Jennifer for a Historical Society letter too.
 - Fitzpatrick is the best source for a letter for the National Register.
 - Who should the point person be? Going to talk to Jim about who it should be and how it should work.
- Slate Hill Cemetery
 - Monica talked to other Monica and the write-up on the Ghost Tour will be in the next LMT newsletter. Nice!

Keystone Preservation Grant

- March 1 deadline for Keystone Preservation Grant
- Joe cleared with David and Jim that we will reapply. They were supportive.
- We applied last year and the grant was not awarded. In November talked to Karen Arnold who encouraged a reapplication.

- It should be more than just fixing the gravestones. We are in a much better position because of the work we've done including the Master Plan.
- We can put it in a much bigger context and had the community aspect around the Ghost Tour, etc. We can measure the number of people in the cemetery.
- We Need to talk to Chris who is going to fix the grave markers. Need a new quote from him.
 - Joe will send a message to Chris that we are going to reapply - can he come back out and walk through and give us some estimates.
- We could do the wall with the grant. We also need to get the other Chris out to look at the retaining wall. He wants \$600 to do an estimate. Capstones need to be reapplied and some stone needs to be repointed.
- Tasks going forward:
 - Joe to talk to Chris the grave guy
 - Tom to talk to Chris the wall guy
 - Feb meeting we'll decide scope

Community Initiative Award

- Community initiative award applied for on Dec 20.
- Monica did a nice write up and included photos from the ghost walk.
- They acknowledged receipt and we are waiting.

Education Project

- We have \$1,000 approved for it.
- Tom wants to have a kickoff meeting.
- Cathy put the stuff in Google Drive so the kickoff meeting is the next step.
- Monica has a list of names for the first round.
- Team working on what goes up on site.
- Joe suggests starting with the budget we have and we'll work on expansions later.
- Maybe we ask Yardley Borough to kick in for things.
- Team is in good shape on the project.
- Beyond the data, we have to decide what the presentation is going to look like.

Sign Project

- We'll wait on Victor to talk about the sign.
- Victor talked to Farmland Conservation about a sign. Apparently they were expensive (\$2,500).
- Suzanne suggested Public Works.
- Sign isn't designed yet.

● Cataloging Materials

- Chris noted that the next step is setting out the ascension criteria and making the required purchases.
- Chris is going to set up a kickoff meeting with Lisa and Helen around stuff to buy and ascension criteria

● Patterson Farm

- Need to submit a piece on historical significance.

- Helen wrote and updated a narrative.
- Joe went through it regarding the historical integrity of the buildings. He also went through the Master Plan. We had to make sure the two reports linked up. Some changes were made to the names of buildings based on family history.
- Helen's narrative is ready to go after she corrected a few typos.
- Next steps are to upload to PA Share and they'll review it and send suggestions. They'll update the Determination of Eligibility. They'll also give us feedback on what we need to get it on the register.

New Business

- As part of the CLG Report, we have to submit certifications that we have completed Continuing Education. We started last year to have sessions - we have two sessions already. We have to have four hours in total. We'll have 4 sessions this year.