

EAST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

April 19, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was conducted in-person at the Township Building. It was convened by Jeff Dore at 7:05 PM

MEMBERS ATTENDING- Peter Spengeman, Jeff Dore, Mark Keilbaugh, Nick Groch..

GUESTS: Bertha Jackmon. AME Church Historian

NEW BUSINESS and STAFF REPORTS

1. Minutes of March 15, 2023– The minutes were reviewed and approved with minor changes.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Ebenezer AME Church(plaque, building stabilization. _The majority of the meeting was spent on this topic.
 - a) The members discussed again potential wording changes for the church plaque, and ultimately there was agreement by the Members and Ms. Jackmon to the original wording that was proposed by the Commission at the end of the February meeting.
 - b) Jeff reported that the Supervisors had approved the wording as well as well as funding creation of the sign at the cost of \$5863. It was noted that inflation had increased costs of steel signs tremendously since the White Horse sign. The Commission now needs to locate a vendor. Jeff also outlined internal township approval process involving purchasing(TomMeecham), public works(John Neild) who will mount the sign, and the Township Manager, Steve Brown.
 - c) Mark Keilbaugh has agreed to handle the above process for the commission.

- d) A discussion took place regarding the location of a two-sided sign, including where in the right of way it will be placed.
 - e) Nick discussed his preliminary belief that there likely should be an external buttressing of the walls while the foundation is worked on. One immediate goal is to keep moisture out which could be achieved by capping the walls. He will pursue contractors in regards to the foundation. There remain two trees on the property that will need to be taken down. Jeff reported the need to add an entryway from the churchyard to Bacton Hill road to allow for heavy machinery to be supported. He will search for dirt fill to create it.
 - f) Ms. Jackmon and commission also had an excellent discussion about access to the churchyard by the public in the future. Some people with relatives buried there may want access to the graves. There continues to be concern about the gravestones and why so many are missing. It was concluded that cemetery headstone artisans may be the best resource for righting and repairing stones.
2. Gunkle Mill – Jeff updated the Members on the access project to meet ADA requirements. The cost is expected to fall somewhere around \$18,000 and the ramp will be initiated in May and June. Ben Hassett is still working on the flume and will also be available for any aspects of the Mill down the road. He reported on the Eagle Scout project to clear out the carriage house which has a great deal of preserved and unpreserved wood inside. Jeff assisted the Scouts in personally ensuring the safety of the structures as well as the varmints who inhabit it.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Spengeman, Secretary