

## MINUTES WRIGHTSTOWN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Monthly Meeting  
Thursday, July 1, 2021

The regular monthly meeting was held in the Township Building Meeting Room on Thursday, July 1, 2021.

**In attendance:** Betty Davis, Mary Lee Johnson, Karl Niederer, Beverly Wilson, Joe Pantano, and, virtually, Jane Magne.

Betty Davis, Commission Chairman, opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Beverly Wilson, Secretary, read the Minutes of the June 3rd meeting, which were accepted as read.

Jane DelBianco, Treasurer, was absent.

**Old Business:** We discussed the property immediately surrounding the Octagonal Schoolhouse. We will obtain information from PennDot concerning the possible need for a new cedar two-rail fence along Swamp Rd. The ground behind the building would be a good parking lot. We have requested that this area be paved. A PennDot representative did agree to discuss the entrance to the field. Joe will obtain his name. Betty reported that the schoolhouse telephone is still not working properly. Although there is a dial tone, outgoing calls cannot be made. Verizon changed lines, but the Security system is not working either.

Betty reported that there were 11 people who attended the June open house. They were pleased that the building was open. The Guest Register from the schoolhouse has been misplaced. We will find it. Betty arranged the schedule of volunteers for the following open houses: July 18 - Karl & Betty 1:00-3:00 p.m. Abby 3:00-5:00 p.m. Betty will stay too. August 14 - Mary Lee and Bev 1:00-3:00 p.m. We hope to have Abby for 3:00-5:00 p.m. Mary Lee reported she sent information about the open houses to several magazines - "Newtown Style," "Times Past and Earth" Shoemaker - "The Intelligencer," "The Courier Times," "The Herald." We will distribute circulars about the Schoolhouse Open Houses in several stores and buildings. Bev will do so at the Rushland Post Office and the Davis Feed Mill.

Abby O'Keeffe phoned in a report to us concerning her research on plants that would have been in Bucks County years ago. - "Native Plants." She has planted many of the plants at the schoolhouse.

**New Business:** Karl brought up the topic of several paintings of township places, which we have. It would be nice to find places throughout the building where we could display the paintings, not necessarily all at one time. For example, a watercolor painting of Wycombe Station painted by Beth Schoenleber, donated to us by Mrs. Lynn Bush, is one.

Also, "Dusty," a small note card about 4 x 6 inches. Dusty is a dog, pictured in Wrightstown, Bucks County, PA. Another photo is by Margaret Mattheson. 1686 - Wm. Smith House, possibly the oldest house in Bucks County.

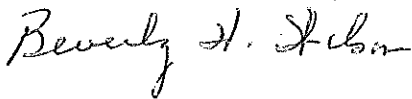
Karl brought up the subject of the Rushland Train Station. Karl called the State Preservation Office. He had a productive meeting with Jenna Solomon. She provided a study from PennDot, prepared in 2004. The study indicates that Rushland is a potential historic district. Road widening idea. Recommended Rushland, the entire village, should be on the National Historic Register. It is possible that there is not enough integrity that pertains to the railroad station. However, the station is a survivor of the 1890's style of railroad stations. Stabilization of properties is mentioned. Discussion followed and more would be necessary. It is possible that a Non-profit or government can provide funding - Township gets \$1 long-term lease. Determine eligibility. Karl has a test. Nominal fee. The Township would have to be a long-time owner; also has to maintain the project. Much discussion about the goal of the use of the station building. Several years ago, Wycombe needed \$650,000 when their railroad station was restored. Wycombe obtained Federal grants. Karl will carefully review the PennDot study.

Township Building ShowCase - Karl has been working on the subject of our next showcase exhibit. He reported that a Narrative about trolleys and trains needs to be developed. He will not be able to provide that by September. An assistant to Karl would be helpful, but we don't know of any such qualified person in the township at present. We should consider another exhibit that would not be trolleys or trains for the Show Case exhibit.

There will be no regular August Commission meeting. The next meeting will be in the Township Building Meeting Room on Thursday, September 2, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beverly H. Wilson".

Beverly H. Wilson, Secretary