



The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Historical Commission was held on May 4th, 2016 at 9:00AM with Carrie Wetherbee presiding and Chantel Wilder as recording secretary.

Board Members: Carrie Wetherbee, Bob Huffman, Diane Huffman (Absent), Kim Williams and Marie Summa (Absent)

Public: Tony Colondo, Ken Johns, Danny Younger

Township Staff: Township Secretary Michele Clewell, Liaison Chantel Wilder

- Carrie Wetherbee made a motion to call the meeting to order. Bob Huffman seconded the motion. Meeting called to order at 9:00AM.
- Bob Huffman made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Kim Williams seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
- Carrie Wetherbee made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Bob Huffman. Motion Passed 4-0

Correspondence:

- None

Public Comment:

- Ken Johns spoke about John Schoonover's willingness to help the Township establish Historical Markers in the Township. According to Mr. John, Mr. Schoonover is interested in establishing a Monument at his home site. The marking of the township Railroad track is of interest to Mr. Johns. It appears that if the Township submits a price he could pass it along to Mr. Schoonover.

New Business:

- **Volunteer background Checks:**
 - Michele Clewell, Township Secretary, spoke about the new State Law and the Township Law concerning any Volunteer who may come in contact with children over two times during the year as a Volunteer of the Township will need to have a background check done. The Township will reimburse all volunteers that incur a fee receipts will need to be submitted to the Township. Volunteers that choose not to have a background check done will not be able to volunteer in more than 2 events a year where children will be present. All Historical Commission members were given the resolution for background checks along with the procedure on how to obtain them.
- **2016 Memory Makers:**
 - Carrie Wetherbee commented on this year's speaker Dr. Lawrence Squeri and mentioned how great Dr. Squeri presentation will be. Carrie will contact Dr. Squeri and inquire if he will bring copies of his book to sell at Memory Makers.
 - Carrie Wetherbee spoke to Wayne Bolt and once he informs her of the time he will need for his presentation of the Hillside Inn he may be able to speak in addition to Dr. Squeri.
- **Collection of Photos:**
 - Carrie Wetherbee attended a chambers dinner in April and spoke to a local developer and the area will soon be undergoing many changes; photos of area are needed for the historical archives that shows our area prior to all the changes.

- **2017 Calendar Theme:**
 - Kim Williams suggested that calendar have a variety of images rather than having one theme. Commission members agreed and will discuss further at next meeting.

Old Business:

- **Interview of residents:**
 - Carrie Wetherbee stated that Marie Summa has made arrangements to interview Nancy Shukaitis and Rita Laubner together; however the interviews need to be taken place prior to memory Makers (8/20/2016). Carrie Wetherbee will follow up with Marie Summa to inquire if a date has been scheduled.
- **Historical Markers:**
 - Commission Members discussed potential markers, none have been selected as of yet.
- **Historical Archives Update:**
 - Computer in reception area will be updated and current archived files will be available to be viewed on it. Archived files do need to be sorted and organized; this may take some time to complete.

Discussion:

- Prior commission member Danny Younger inquired of the status of the building behind the flea market (old library). Carrie Wetherbee informed Danny Younger that she briefly looked into using the space as a museum. Carrie Wetherbee said several steps need to be done in order for this happen, a grant needs to be submitted or a fundraiser needs to take place but could take years to obtain the funds. In addition the maintenance, salary, utilities, insurance and more need to be researched; Carrie Wetherbee is not sure if owner is willing to sell and is unaware of the cost of the space.
 - Danny Younger suggested that an inquiry can be made on whether the owner is willing to provide a long term lease.
 - Bob Huffman mentioned that he is not certain but there may be a current 100 year lease in place.
 - Carrie Wetherbee mentioned that this is a large undertaking and will have to look into further.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15am.

Next Meeting: June 1st, 2016 at 9:00am