

Delaware Township Historical Advisory Committee

Minutes: November 13, 2019 7:30PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Nancy Bond, Bob Chamberlain, Marilyn Cummings, Tim Davis, Charlie Herman, Chuck Taylor

Visitors: Liza Davis; Dennis Bertland

Approved minutes of October 9, 2019 meeting

Dennis Bertland gave us a presentation on progress at the Locktown Stone Church. He explained the original preservation and what is proposed for the future. The group would like to add a building, designed to look like a horse and wagon shed that used to be there. It would contain bathrooms and a small kitchen for meetings and events. The size and placement are restricted due to the topography and the nearby brook and the flood plain.

The group is planning on a capital campaign to raise funds for this project and future needs.

Projects:

1. Moore Cemetery: This is now on hold since neither neighbor will do an access easement. There is verbal access only. It is reported that there once was an access easement, which has dropped off the deed. The Township has been working with one neighbor to preserve their property as a farm. A suggestion is to have the Moore family continue to maintain it and possibly acquire it.

2. Holcombe House: The Delaware Township Historical Society is working with the owners to do testing on the wood beams to verify age (dendrochronology).

3. Saxtonville Tavern: No change in status from last month.

4. Reading School: The mason has started to work on the interior. He will be replacing loose rocks, block up the pass-through opening and remount the nailer blocks. He is giving us the "rainy day rate" for a better price. The stenciling on the walls, a mid-1800s trend will be kept intact, and maybe redone during painting. It is time to create a master plan for the project. Paint samples for the exterior are being reviewed, and bids are being accepted. 4 written bids and 2 verbal bids have been received.

5. Sergeantsville sidewalks: The committee and the Delaware Township Historical Society agree that the curbs and sidewalks removed and paved over in Sergeantsville during the repaving of CR523 should be restored. DTHS has written to the County about it.

Rt 604 neighbors have been informed of the changes to the sidewalk between the school and the firehouse. The historic stone retaining wall is to be removed, rebuilt and expanded to make the project work. Landscaping is being designed by a historic landscape designer.

Delaware Township expects to receive a grant of \$180,000 for the project.

6. Historic bridges update: Once again the stone bridge on Covered Bridge Road has been damaged. The problem appears to be from trailers being pulled around and over the curved bridge. There is discussion of better signs at both ends of the road, lower speed limits, and cameras overlooking the bridge.

7. Historic districts road work: No additional discussion

8. Historical site signs: No discussion

9. Stockton and Flemington Development updates: No discussion

New Business: None raised

Public Comments, Questions, Suggestions: None

Adjournment: 9:50