

## Kennett Township Historical Commission

801 Burrows Run Road  
Chadds Ford, PA 19317  
[www.kennett.pa.us](http://www.kennett.pa.us)



July 23, 2019

**Commission Members Present:** Sara Meadows, Jay Hughes, Denise Klein, Diane McGovern, Ed Rahme

**Members: Absent:** Lars Farmer, Jim Jacoby, Judy Merhar, Fredda Pennock

**Visitors:** None

### MINUTES

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**Sara opened the Meeting at 7:12pm**

1. The minutes of the June 25, 2019 meeting were accepted with the following changes:
  - 4.1 Annual Program... FRANK Furness.
2. **Treasurer's Report:**

Sara reported no new expenses.  
**Current Balance:** \$1480.00
3. **Board of Supervisors Meeting:**
  - 3.1 Sara reported no new information
4. **Sub-Committee Reports:**
  - 4.1 **Annual Program** – Possible topics include:
    - 4.1.1 Presentation of the Frank Furness house on Route 82 in the Borough
    - 4.1.2 Diane suggested presenting *A History of Spar Hill Farm*
    - 4.1.2 Diane suggested presenting *A History of Farms Purchased by the Township*
5. **KTHC Business**
  - 5.1 **The Pines** – Sara Reported nothing new.
  - 5.2 **Spar Hill Farm** – Sara reported that the Supervisors approved a \$6000 budget to perform a Historic Structures Report on the house, so that there will be detailed record of the structure even if it is demolished. Seth Hinshaw of RGA Consultants will begin the assessment on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

The Donahoe family lived in one of the small tenant houses on Spar Hill Farm in the 1960's and early 1970's. The turkey business was over by then and the Donahoe father took care of a small herd of dairy cows (perhaps 60). When Mr. Schutt passed away, the family moved on to another farm to care for another dairy herd.– The children, now adults living across the US, were holding a family reunion and wanted to visit the farm.

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They contacted Sara and she met with them on Friday to discuss family stories and tour the farm. Sara enjoyed meeting them and learning more about the farm's history.

Diane reported that the Township has recently had contact from an unidentified party who has expressed interest in purchasing the house, additional acreage and some of the other buildings. They would restore the house.

The 103-acre property borders between Burnt Mill and Center Mill Roads. It abuts the 68-acre Lord Howe Property, located off Old Kennett and Burnt Mill Roads, which was also purchased by the Township as open space

The Township worked in a collaborative effort with the Township Land Conservation Advisory Committee (LCAC) and The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County (TLC) to preserve these lands. The total acreage will become a recreation area with trails and open space.

Members who had attended the last BOS meeting reported that the issue re: the legality of the possible sale of a portion of the farm was raised at that meeting by the Interim Township Manager, Alison Rudolf and Dave Sander, Township legal counsel, because of the way the purchase was funded. The 103-acre Spar Hill farm property was purchased for \$3.2 million and was funded, in part, by a \$1 million grant from the Mt Cuba Foundation and open space funds.

- 5.3 **Isaac Allen House** – Sara reported that at the last BOS Meeting she had requested funding for Bob Wise to conduct a more intensive assessment of the building and to develop ideas for possible restoration/ preservation of the building. The Supervisors denied the request because the Township does not have a formal lease agreement with Chatham Financial for the building. The Township will try to negotiate an inexpensive lease so that more information can be discovered about the building and plans can be developed.
- 5.4 **Stonehouse** (formally the Sweetbriar townhome development at the Five Points intersection) – The developers have created a landscape plan and asked the Historic Commission for our comments. Sara asked Tom Comitta (Township Landscape Architect) to review the design and offer an opinion since we do not have expertise with landscaping. There will be a meeting at 10am on Thursday 07/25/2019 at the house to discuss the design on site. Sara will attend and will be joined by Dan Mallach from Comitta's office. Other members were invited to attend if they were able.
- 5.5 **Clifton Mill** – Because our Commission chose Clifton Mill as a site for a Brandywine Battlefield historic marker, Denise is researching to determine how the Mill factored into the Battle of the Brandywine – the role it played. Sara recommended that Denise contact Karen Marshall for advice and ideas about where roads and troop paths were located in the area back in 1777.

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### **END MINUTES**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ed Rahme, Secretary

