

**WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**Westtown Municipal Building, 1039 Wilmington Pike, West Chester**  
**Thursday, October 20, 2016 6:00 P.M.**

In attendance: Commission members David Walter, Gail Guterl, Pamela Boulos, Ray Sarnacki, Pat McDonough, and Erica Reilly.

**I. Call to Order**

David Walter called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

**II. Approval of Minutes from September 15, 2016**

Gail Guterl made a motion to approve the minutes from September 15, 2016. Ray Sarnacki seconded the motion.

**III. Public Comment (non-agenda items)**

None.

**IV. Old Business**

**A. Historic Resources Listing**

On November 18, the Historic Resources Listing letter was mailed to all home or property owners with a historic property in Westtown Township. The letter asks permission to take photos of the property and includes a self-addressed stamped envelope. The commission will await a response from all residents before scheduling photography.

**B. Taylor Burial Ground Marker Dedication**

As a result of feedback from the Pleasant Grove community, the Taylor family markers have been removed from the neighborhood and placed in storage. Westtown Supervisors decided to remove the markers after complaints from neighborhood residents.

Ray Sarnacki, who lives in Pleasant Grove, stated that he felt this was a lesson learned that the township should talk to the community before putting anything in. Dave Walter advised that fundraising and notice of the markers have been going on for two years, and no one working for the township had any inkling the community would be upset at adding to an existing memorial. The commission had planned to place postcards in Pleasant Grove mailboxes anticipating the community would like to be involved in the ceremony, and notifications had been sent via the listserv to any

residents signed up. The township also has a Facebook and website with updates on these kinds of projects.

The township is now looking for an alternate location to install the markers; most probably at Oakbourne Mansion. Several locations are being considered - Historical Commission recommending near the flagpole or water tower - and the commission is hoping to expand on the memorial, possibly with a large plaque or monument containing names of other Westtown soldiers.

**C. Asplen/Huey Property**

The township can condemn the .55 acre parcel of the Asplen Huey homestead parcel in order to have it donated to Westtown. The landowners are willing to have this parcel donated. It was determined that the parcel was not part of the sale when the home was purchased, so the Asplens will own it and turn over to the township. The Huey family descendants have offered to help Westtown clean up and stabilize the ruin on the property. Ray Sarnacki agreed to be the point person on this project.

**D. Crebilly Farm Historical Aspects Report**

Dave Walter received permission from the Supervisors to create a historical aspect report regarding Crebilly Farm. Dave has researched the farm and property, while Gail Guterl has been writing about Darlington Corner. Dan Campbell provided information to Dave Walter regarding the serpentine tenant house on the property near South New Street (it has a date stone of 1803).

The report will bring together all aspects of the historical significance of the property, its structures and land. The Historical Commission will present the report to the Planning Commission when it begins holding meetings about the proposed Toll Brothers development.

**E. Westtown Day**

Erica Reilly gave a report on Westtown Day, the township's first community day. The event was a big success, with over 640 attendees. There was a lot of positive feedback from attendees. The Historical and Parks & Recreation Commissions had a meeting to go over the event and consider ways to make it better for next year, such as additional carnival games, a bigger petting zoo, and moving all the activities closer together. A number of people also wanted to tour the water tower.

**V. New Business**

**A. Shiloh AME Church and Graveyard**

The Shiloh AME Church graveyard is a historic property where the first female African-American ordained minister preached and Westtown Civil War soldier Isaac

Winters, among other Civil War black soldiers, is buried. The property, which is privately owned, has become overgrown with weeds and debris. According to Chester County records, approximately 14 soldiers and 100 people are buried there.

On October 16, there was an article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* about Al Terrell, a retired schoolteacher who has been restoring the crumbling graveyard of the abandoned Ebenezer AME Church in East Whiteland Township. After reading the article, Dave decided the Historical Commission needs to focus on what they can do to preserve the township's own AME Church property. There is a law that allows the township to tell owners to clean up a cemetery or the township will clean it up themselves and put a lien on the property. Dave believes we need to enforce that law.

Two West Chester University Student Veterans Club members, who are advised by Dr. Kodosky of Shiloh Road, attended the meeting. They asked about the progress on the Shiloh AME project that had been written up in a local paper several years ago. The two men, Will Todd and Travis Lopez, are former soldiers and believe their fellow veterans' graves should not be allowed to fall into disrepair. They told the Historical Commission they would be happy to help any way they could. Commission members thanked them for their support, and advised they should make their interest known to the Board of Supervisors, who are in a position to discuss the matter.

**B. Commission Appointments**

Four Historical Commission member three-year terms will be up for renewal this year: Dave Walter, Gail Guterl, Pat McDonough, and Dan Campbell. Dave asked if everyone would like to remain with the commission. Everyone wishes to be reappointed. Dave will notify the Board of Supervisors.

**VI. Public Comment (All Topics)**

None.

**VII. Announcements**

None.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.