

Lower Gwynedd Historic Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting / Workshop
October 19, 2023

Committee Members Present

Gloria Jones
Joseph Langella
Fawn Ostriak
Linda Sacks

Committee Members Absent

Allison Klinger
Mike Brockway

Supervisors Present

No Supervisors present

Lower Gwynedd Staff

Michelle Farzetta (not present) Took minutes from recording.

Call to order

The hybrid meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. at the Lower Gwynedd Township building. Roll call was taken. The committee had questions as to whether they had enough members present for a quorum. Four of the six members were present, making it a majority, however they chose to run the meeting as a workshop as they felt they needed to have five members present.

Vice Chair Assumes Position of Chair

Ms. Jones assumed the position as Chair of the Historic Advisory Committee (HAC).

Discussion Regarding Position of Chair for Remainder of 2023

Ms. Jones does not wish to remain chair of the HAC. Her term is up at the end of 2023 and would like to continue to serve on the HAC for at least another year, but not as chair. Ms. Sacks questioned the terms, as her term is also up at the end of the year. She feels this is a mistake and would like some form of clarification. Ms. Jones asked Ms. Ostriak if she would be interested in taking on the role of Chair. Ms. Ostriak stated she would like to get more information before making that commitment.

Approval of the Minutes

After some discussion the HAC would like to amend one line in the September 21, 2023, minutes. On page two it states, *“Ms. Jones is going to email the proposed text to the HAC members for them to review prior to the October meeting.”* They would like the minutes to read *“Ms. Jones is going to email an example of suggested text for them to review.”* No vote could be taken on this change, as the meeting was now a workshop. Therefore, a vote will be taken at a future meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Board of Supervisors - Liaison Report

There was no report from the Supervisor Liaison.

Historical Markers

- **Bethlehem Baptist Church (BBC)**– Mr. Langella has sent the text example from Ms. Jones to Carol at the Wisshickon Valley Historical Society to review and see if she has any suggestions on the wording. There was discussion regarding QR codes, as not all the HAC members would like them on the marker signs. A temporary marker will be installed on October 20th at the former location of BBC. They will continue to work on the final text.
- **Penllyn School** – Text has not been written or approved for this marker by the HAC. There was a suggested text in the initial application received. There were a few questions regarding the amount of money the Board of Supervisors (BOS) is willing to spend per year on markers. Is there a budget for the markers? Will it be necessary to collect donations to offset the cost of the markers. There was also discussion regarding other locations/properties within the township that could be historical. Ms. Ostriak questioned whether they as a committee should start to submit applications for these other locations. She also suggested putting communication in both the paper newsletter and/or e-newsletters regarding historical markers and applications.

Ingersoll House

Mr. Langella researched Ingersoll House and put together a report of his findings. He has been asked to supply footnotes by Ms. Martin. No formal recommendation has been made yet to the BOS; however, Mr. Langella is getting the feeling that the township prefers to sell the property rather than put the money into restoring it. Mr. Langella said it would sell to the right person. The HAC tabled any further discussion until the next meeting.

Gwynedd School History (follow up from August meeting)

Mr. Langella is going to enlist the help of the WVHS to get more information regarding the history of the Gwynedd School. Ms. Jones would like to find out who bought the school and

when it closed. Mr. Langella said he knows it was built in 1888 and it was the last of four one room schoolhouses built. He will continue to research the school.

Speaker Event

Mr. Langella has not had any success getting ahold of the professor at Gwynedd Mercy University. He is going to speak with Russ Bellavance, former president of the WVHS, to see if he could put something together about the history of Lower Gwynedd. Russ's hobby is researching and has put together several presentations for the WVHS. Ms. Jones suggested Bill Johnson as a speaker. Once someone is secured, he will follow up with a date in 2024. Ms. Ostriak suggested possibly making it a family/community event and holding it someplace outside. Mr. Langella said typically they hold events at the 1895 Schoolhouse or at the Wisshickon Valley Public Library.

Announcements

There were no announcements. Next meeting will be November 16th.

Adjournment

Mr. Langella made a motion to adjourn at 7:21 pm. Motion passed 4-0.