

**Lower Gwynedd Historic Advisory Committee**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**July 20, 2023**

**Committee Members Present**

Matt Metcalf  
Gloria Jones  
Joseph Langella  
Fawn Ostriak  
Linda Sacks  
Michael Brockway  
Allison Klinger

**Committee Members Absent**

None

**Supervisors Present**

Janine Martin

**Lower Gwynedd Staff**

Michelle Farzetta (not present) Took minutes from recording.

**Call to order**

The hybrid meeting was called to order at 6:11 p.m. at the Lower Gwynedd Township building. Roll call was taken.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Metcalf asked for a motion to approve the June 15, 2023, minutes. Mr. Brockway made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones. Motion passed 7-0-0.

**Changes to the Agenda**

Mr. Langella asked to add a discussion about the Ingersoll House to the agenda.

**Written Communication**

There was no written communication.

**Audience Participation**

There was no audience participation.

**Board of Supervisors - Liaison Report**

Ms. Martin gave an update regarding the Owen Evans Property. The developer has submitted plans for cluster development. Our Building and Zoning Sub-committee are reviewing them, along with our Engineers. The historical house will remain on the property, but we are unsure how it will be used. Not all the land can be developed as there are wetlands on the property.

Ms. Martin suggested keeping an eye on the agendas for the Planning Commission meetings, as this project will be on their schedule in the coming months.

### **Monitoring of Historic Properties**

- **Old Bethlehem Pike Bridge** – Mr. Metcalf shared photos he received from Gilmore, of the possible bridges that could be installed to replace the existing bridge. They are all precast fabricated bridges, like what is currently being installed throughout the township. There was conversation regarding the current state of the bridge, possibilities to restore it and if other designs could be an option.

The conversation ended with questions for our Engineers. These questions included...

1. Has restoration been explored as an option? How so?
2. Can the current bridge be reinforced as an alternative to knocking it down and building new? At what cost?
3. If demolition and new construction are the only options, what other styles are available that mimic what is there? Or that look like they are from the time period? Or from Pennsylvania?

- **Spring House Innovation Park- Building #1** – Mr. Metcalf drafted a letter to Mr. Jason Rascoe inquiring about the plans for Building 1. The hope is to have some key elements highlighted prior to any changes being made. Supervisor McNeely has also had some conversation with Mr. Rascoe. There was some discussion regarding the original architect for the building. They are hoping to possibly have a preservation through documentation in the lobby of the building. There was also mention of possibly a historic marker with a QR code.
- **Ingersoll House** – Mr. Langella has asked for this subject to be added to the agenda, as he would like an update regarding the recommendation the HAC will be making to the Board of Supervisors (BOS). After some conversation it was agreed to have Mr. Langella draft a document from the HAC stating Ingersoll's historical significance and why it should be preserved. For the structure to be put on the historical registry Ingersoll's age, integrity and significance would need to be proven.

### **Old Business**

- **Gwynedd School Recommendation** – Mr. Metcalf shared a letter he drafted to the BOS regarding The HAC's recommendation of preservation through documentation. The

recommendations include developing interpretive signage/panels to include text and images, incorporating a stone marker, or using basic preservation through documentation procedures that include information about the building. Mr. Metcalf made a motion, seconded by Ms. Klinger, to send this letter to the BOS. Motion passed 7-0-0. (HAC Rec 2023.03)

- **Speaker Event with WVHS for 2023-2024-** The LGT HAC would like to participate in speaker events with the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society (WVHS). Mr. Langella provided information on who to speak with at the WVHS. Space will need to be reserved, a date set, and a speaker chosen. The committee would also like to submit a request for \$250 to pay for the event. Ms. Martin suggested writing a memo to the BOS asking for the funds. (HAC Rec 2023.05)
- **Historical Markers – Submission review -** Mr. Metcalf drafted an application for the Historical Marker Program and shared it with staff for review. The application will be posted on the website and all requests will be submitted via email to the township staff. Mr. Metcalf would like the form to be electronic with spaces open for applicants to complete, rather than a guide to follow with required information. There was a conversation amongst the committee regarding the requested information. There was an active discussion regarding communication to the property owner about the possibility of a marker going on or in front of their property. Some felt that the staff should be contacting the property owner, while others thought that the applicant or possibly someone from the HAC should notify them. One member suggested drafting a form letter that could be used to notify a property owner. Ms. Jones mentioned that we must be respectful to the owners, because if a marker were to be put up, they will have people on or in front of the property to read the sign. A motion was made to approve the application form with a change to the language regarding the property owners' consent to the marker placement. The form will allow people nominating markers to indicate they have or have not secured owner consent, but securing consent will not be a requirement for submission. Motion passed 5-1-0. (Yay – Jones, Langella, Ostriak, Brockway, Sacks Nay-Metcalf) Ms. Klinger was not present for the vote.

**Designs –** Ms. Ostriak made some prototypes of the markers and shared them with the HAC. Ms. Ostriak and Ms. Klinger have contacted Erie Sign Company for information, as they do work for several municipalities. Ms. Martin stated she will follow up with Fred Zollers, Public Works Director, to get an update on his end. The committee reviewed all the prototypes. At this time, they are not recommending the use of a QR code. They would like to move forward with obtaining costs and inquiring about the various materials they could use to construct the signs. The cost of the signs would be paid through the township.

**Live Date-** The HAC would like to go live with the Historical Marker Program on August 1<sup>st</sup>. They would like to have a section added to the website for both the Committee and the Marker program (information for which can be found under the HAC section), similar to what the Environmental Committee has. Mr. Metcalf agreed to draft the information for the website and share it with staff. There are a handful of requested markers that the committee is aware of upfront, but Ms. Martin mentioned that the HAC can also make recommendations for markers.

- **Easement Templates** – This item was tabled, due to time.
- **Historic Preservation Survey** – Mr. Metcalf drafted a letter to the BOS asking for a third-party contractor to conduct a township wide historic survey of the properties to aid them in making recommendations related to existing and proposed historical preservation ordinances. Mr. Brockway made a motion to approve submission of the letter, seconded by Ms. Sacks. Motion passed 6-0-0. (HAC Rec 2023.04)

### **New Business**

- **National Historic Register District: Penllyn Village** – tabled due to time.

### **Announcements**

Mr. Metcalf mentioned that Fall Fest is coming soon. We have a table next to the WVHS. Mr. Metcalf confirmed that he will be at the table and invited others to attend. Ms. Jones said she will attend.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Langella made a motion to adjourn at 8:12 pm, seconded by Ms. Ostriak. Motion passed 6-0-0.