

Lower Gwynedd Historic Committee
Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 20th, 2022

Committee Members Present:

Mike Brockway
Gloria Jones
Allison Klingler
Joseph W. Langella Jr.
Michelle Mayer
Matt Metcalf

Supervisors Present:

Danielle Duckett
Janine Martin

Lower Gwynedd Staff Present:

None

Call to Order:

Committee Members and Supervisors met at the McCormick House at 5:00 PM to tour the building and grounds before the beginning of the meeting.

The on-site meeting was called to order at 5:56 PM. It was noted that enough Committee members were present for a quorum.

Changes to Agenda:

None.

September Meeting Minutes:

The Meeting Minutes from September 15, 2022 were not able to be reviewed at this meeting. Ms. Klingler will send out copies via email along with the October meeting minutes and both will be reviewed at the November meeting.

Written Communications

No written communications were received.

It was noted that the Committee still does not have much of a presence, particularly online. Mr. Metcalf volunteered to look into getting something in the Township's newsletter and he and Ms. Martin will coordinate with the Township about the Committee's presence on the Township's website.

Public Comment:

None.

Board of Supervisors - Liaison Report:

Ms. Martin reported that the board is most concerned about the plan for the Ingersoll House.

Monitoring of Historic Properties:

Mr. Brockway did note that the Owen Evans Homestead was again listed for sale and that the Committee should keep an eye on it. Ms. Klingler noted that the Owen Evans property was listed on the 2000 Lower Gwynedd Township Historical Society list of historic properties, which likely means the property qualifies as historic under the current ordinances. The Committee discussed whether the Homestead / Farmstead Act could apply.

Previous Business:

Ingersoll House Observations:

Overall, members of the Committee thought that the house and barn were lovely and in surprisingly good structural condition. However, they also noted that it would not be a small cost to the taxpayers to fix it up. Mr. Metcalf did note that, although it would be expensive to fix up, it would also be expensive to demo, particularly due to the likely need of abatement. It should also be noted that Ingersoll has a new roof, installed in 2022, which was replaced in kind. Committee still thinks Township should consider Ingersoll for their own needs, such as offices, and should also consider sale to a private party so long as a historic preservation covenant / easement is put in place.

It was also noted that the neighbors might want to be involved, particularly since there was an agreement between the Township and the Developers. The house may have been promised as a “clubhouse” or similar community use for the neighbors. It was noted that there might be more information under the Springhouse Farm HOA for Ingersoll and any previous correspondence or promises.

Historic Building Inspector:

Mr. Langella noted that an expert eye on what it would take to fix up the house is important. Committee to review updated proposal for inspection work. Mr. Metcalf and Mr. Langella to reach out to Heritage Conservancy about what they do, how they could help, and future options for Ingersoll.

Ingersoll Artifact:

A piece of wallpaper that was found at Ingersoll was donated to the Wissahickon Historic Society.

New Business:

Comprehensive Plan:

The Comprehensive Plan will be discussed at the November meeting.

Property Data Request:

The Committee requested that if the Township has data on the ages of houses or construction dates / records, that they be provided. What houses are considered old enough to request to the owners that they be added to the list?

McCormick House Tour:

Believed to be called the Gwynedd Public School, this building was one of the four original 1-room school houses (grades 1 - 8) built in the mid to late 1800s. The building was previously inhabited by McCormick Plumbing, which is how the building got its current name. A stone plaque located in one of the apartments reads "Gwynedd Public School 1888" (Note this plaque is loose and not installed on any wall)

The 2-story building is currently split into two (2) separate apartments which are connected on the basement level. Due to the exterior stucco work, it is hard to tell what is original and what is new work.

Announcements:

None.

Closing:

The meeting was called to close at 6:49PM.

**Meeting Minutes prepared by:
Allison Klingler**