

Malvern Historical Commission
Meeting January 27, 2014
Minutes

Members Present: Christian Arena, Lynne Hockenbury, Barb Leighton, Kurt Leininger, Barbara Rutz, Joan Stackhouse,

Members Absent: none

Guests Present: Pat Marcozzi, Zeyn Uzman

The meeting was called to order at 7:38pm

I. Opening Remarks. This is the first meeting in some time with all six MCH members present. As this is our first meeting in two months, most of the agenda consist of the proposed and planned events for the Borough's 125th Anniversary.

II. Approval of Minutes. November 2013 minutes were reviewed, corrections noted, and approved as corrected.

III. Financial Report. Lynne reported the following summary information:

- Funds spent from the 2013 budget totaled \$1,779.93, and funds remaining unspent total \$445.07. The 2014 budget includes an additional \$8,000 which is considered to be reserved primarily for the 125th Anniversary events sponsored by the MHC.
- Balance in the MHC savings account balance is \$3,781.46, which does not include \$600 from recent sales plus a \$500 personal donation, for a total \$1,100 yet to be deposited. An additional \$1,000 donation is reserved for the summer intern.

IV. Election of Officers. The MHC has functioned for some time without formal officers, due to the small active membership in recent years.

- It was decided to elect new officers, particularly with the upcoming 125th Anniversary events and more public exposure of the MCH. It was also agreed that officers would give the MHC a more cohesive "structure" in the public eye.
- Lynne offered to continue her service as Chair, Christian Arena offered to be the new Treasurer, and Kurt Leininger offered to continue as Secretary. All positions were approved unanimously.

V. Old Business.

Preservation Awards: Our approach was discussed for new awards was discussed in some detail. Barbara Rutz offered to coordinate this effort and conduct meetings with the members as needed, and to report a few recommended "Stewardship Award" nominations at the next monthly meeting. As noted by Barbara, the purpose of our award is to instill "pride of ownership" in the historical heritage of our community, and build interest in establishing an historical ordinance.

Stewardship is considered to include more than one award, to recognize good preservation efforts in different types of property or other ways. We also want to encourage “adaptive reuse” of property. Our goal is to present awards by this August, at a semi-formal event sponsored by the MHC and Borough Council. These awards will be selected by the MHC, rather than from public nominations which could be used in future years.

In lieu of a separate posthumous award to Nancy Schmitt, the MHC recommends naming the Malvern History Center in her honor.

125th Anniversary: Barb Leighton discussed her coordination with Lisa O’Neill and others in planning of various events. Lynne has a list drafted of all events scheduled, including the normal annual events, summarized as follows:

- April 26th - Historic Sugartown Day
- May 4 – Malvern Blooms
- May 31 – Farmers’ Market spaghetti dinner on Monument “loop” followed by a Chester County band concert. (The borough 5k run will be that morning.)
- June 1 – Malvern Memorial Day Parade
- August 7 – Chester County Town Tour & Walk (trolleys to be provided by the MHC and Paoli Battle Preservation Fund)
- August 16 or 23 – Bible Chapel community picnic
- September 18 – Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund/Paoli Memorial Association joint dinner at the Desmond Hotel

Lynne also noted the following unscheduled events that need to be confirmed:

- Food truck roundup in Burke Park
- Baptist Church cemetery tour
- Trains and railroad event (Tom Hickey?)
- Chester Valley Little League “East vs West Game”
- Parks & Recreation Commission scavenger hunt, games, etc.?
- Historic Sugartown Day, scheduled for April 26th (they have offered their facilities)
- Borough Council/MHC joint event – “meet and greet” at a local restaurant (Alba’s?) or possibly Historic Sugartown who has offered their facilities.(This event would preferably be held on August 13th, which is the actual day of the 125th Anniversary)

Finally, Lynne passed around a printed page showing example banner designs, and one of them was selected over the others.

Victorian Christmas Display: Lynne reported that we sold a few books and other items, which added to our year-end budget surplus. The display at the Malvern National Bank was well received, although a few folks said they miss the former miniature train display.

MHC Book Inventory: The MHC wants to reduce its inventory of the three history books, which are available on www.malvern.org. Christian volunteered to update our book inventory, which are stored in an empty office at Borough Hall.

Historical Ordinance: Lynne and Barbara will continue meeting monthly with Tom Scofield, to complete the inventory of properties in the near future so that a new ordinance can be proposed to the Malvern Planning Commission by midyear.

Ongoing Action Log: Lynne distributed the “action log” for discussion and updating. Kurt agreed to send articles for the Borough Broadcaster newsletter (as one of the secretarial duties), and Barbara R. offered to continue with the historic property inventory files. The only task without an “owner” designated in the Log is the Historic Brochure/Walking tour. The other designated task owners are Joan for interviews, and Lynne for website content, eBay and Borough council updates.

VI. New Business.

- Helen McDonnell recently started to work with the new PastPerfect software, and she needs more time to make it usable for the MHC property files. She will discuss with us as soon as she can connect with Lynne and Barbara. (Helen was ill and couldn't attend this meeting.)
- Lynne discussed the need to “clean” the History Center (reorganize files and objects), and also to have the Center open to the public on a regular schedule. Saturdays from 11 am to 3 pm was agreed as a convenient time for a few MHC members to be available on a monthly basis.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

The next meeting is on February 24, 2014, which will begin with the Malvern “town tour volunteer” meeting from 7:00 to 8:00 pm, after which the regular MHC meeting will occur.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kurt Leininger, Secretary
Malvern Historical Commission