

**Malvern Historical Commission**  
**Meeting of October 29, 2014**  
**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Kurt Leininger, Alicia Marziani, Barbara Rutz, Zeyn Uzman

**Members Absent:** Helen McDonnell, Kelly Schmitt

**Guests Present:** Lynne Hockenbury, Pat Marcozzi, Joan Zimnoch

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

**I. Opening Remarks.**

Kurt mentioned his recent tour of the interesting Mill Creek sights in the Gladwyne area, and passed out copies of the highlights published by the Lower Merion Conservancy to the members present.

**II. Approval of Minutes** The meeting minutes of September 25, 2014, were reviewed as revised, and approved.

**III. Financial Report** Helen sent us a financial summary which reports a balance of approximately \$1500 in checking and \$3200 in savings. These reflect reimbursement to Kurt for the new plaques (\$2500). Expenses for the remainder of the year will include dues for the Chester County Historical Society and Chester County Preservation Network, and a few items as discussed below

**IV. Old Business**

- A. Commission Opening:** With Barb Leighton's resignation a few days ago, we have a new opening. The members present unanimously approved the appointment of Joan Zimnoch to fill Barb's position for the remainder of her term (1/1/17).
- B. Malvern Harvest Festival:** The festival was successful for selling post cards, coins and a few books. We should request the same location next year, which is right in the middle at the King St. – Warren Ave junction.
- C. History Center Open House:** Since very few visitors have arrived during our recent open house times, we decided to defer further open houses until early next year. Our thought is to focus on hosting an open house during other Borough events.
- D. Victorian Christmas:** Zeyn will contact Kathie Brown to see if we can be included in the promotional materials. We have not been asked to set up the historical display from last year. Lynne offered to help set up the table, and others can follow up. Lynne said we need change in \$5 and \$10 bills, rather than only \$20s, since our book prices are in increments of \$5.
- E. Historical Ordinance Update:** Zeyn said his presentation at the Oct 7<sup>th</sup> Borough Council meeting was well received. The proposed ordinance is being edited by the Borough solicitor, to include wording with respect to demolition required after a natural disaster, in response to a question raised at the Council meeting. Once the ordinance is adopted, details such as review fees, and review forms for a modified building permit application package, will need to be resolved.

**F. Rubino House Update:** Zeyn presented his proposal for relocating this historic home at the Borough Council's October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting (after his historical ordinance presentation), and followed up at the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. The Council does not seem ready to take action that could lead to purchasing the Herzak property (soil sample testing, etc.). The Borough has distributed a questionnaire in the latest Broadcaster and sewer bill, to help ascertain community preferences regarding future borough purchases of property.

**G. MHC Direction for 2015:** Zeyn led the group in a discussion of the MHC's "Activity Log" and "Action Log" to help us plan for next year's activities. Highlights of the discussion were as follows:

- Audio interviews will be continued, and we can copy them to website links, etc. We might also want to buy a voice recorder.
- We will ask Maddie to come back during upcoming holiday weeks to spend a few days helping us digitize historic items for computer editing. Alicia is especially interested in learning about this.
- We should create "themes" from our existing collection, for use in rotating items in the History Center's display case.
- We need to upgrade our website content ("then" and "now", etc.), and make use of the Borough website as our primary source. Use of Facebook and other social media should be secondary.
- We need to decide whether to continue using vendors for selling the MHC books, which takes some effort to keep track of how many books are at various locations. Lynne suggested that if we continue, we might prefer that each vendor purchase a certain number of volumes (like Kohlerman has), rather than just give them a limited supply for selling and letting us know when to collect the money. Kurt suggested we focus on shops along East King Street, since many new residents of the Flats have moved into the Borough and are interested in its history.
- When we cleaned out and reorganized the History Center earlier this year, Christian Arena was making notes of our book inventory as the boxes were being relocated. Kurt will ask him if he can send us his notes.

## **V. New Business.**

**A. Nancy Schmitt Memorial Bench:** Kelly and her sister have requested that we consider buying a plaque to honor their mother, which would be placed on the bench between the pavilion and a tree (both dedicated to Nancy's husband). Sandy suggested that we might want to buy a new bench to replace the old bench on the west side of Burke Park. This may be an additional expense for the MHC prior to the end of the year.

**B. Dates for Borough Broadcaster Flyer:** The dates next year for submitting our MHC flyer for the quarterly publication are January 5, April 5, July 5 and October 5. The MHC Secretary will send it, with input from other members as required.

**C. Dates for IN Great Valley Magazine:** Dates for submissions to this publication are January 25 (with information through June 30<sup>th</sup>), May 10 (with information through September 30<sup>th</sup>), August 15 (with information through December 10<sup>th</sup>), and October 25 (with information through March 2016). Barbara R. offered to submit an article in January on Sears homes that she has been compiling.

**D. Chester County Historical Preservation Network Fall Program:** An email has been distributed to announce a “meet & greet” for all Chester County historical society members and friends on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the Phoenixville Foundry, from 3 to 5pm.

**E. Meeting Dates for 2015:** Kurt will email the following official planned meeting dates for 2015 to Sandy, which are the usual 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month except for May.

January 26	April 27	July 27	October 26
February 23	May 18	August 24	November 23
March 23	June 22	September 28	

**F. Commission Membership Tenure:** Lynne said we’ve been requested to prepare a list of each member of the Borough’s various commissions, from date of appointment (or swearing in) to end of term.

**G. Pictures for Display:** The framed pictures in the History Center need to be reprinted and reframed for hanging in the Council and conference rooms.

**H. Sale of Banners:** The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banners have been removed by the Public Works Department. We will discuss how to present them for sale at the next meeting.

The next meeting was rescheduled for Wednesday, November 26, 2014, at 6:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kurt Leininger  
Secretary, Malvern Historical Commission