

LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

May 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by David Doyle, Chairman at 6:30pm. All members were present as well as Amanda Zerbe, Liaison for the Lower Paxton Supervisors. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Minsker.

Business Meeting

The April 8, 2021 minutes were motioned for approval by Bill Minsker, seconded by Denise Deimler and approved by all. There was discussion about recessing the meetings for the months of June and July; both Business Meeting and Monthly Meetings. Chairman David Doyle wants to send out media blasts to the public so that they know we will be doing "live" meetings. Motion was made by Kristy Kessler and seconded by Don Goss. Motion was approved by all.

Old Business

A. Project at Wenrich Slave Cemetery update

David Doyle said the Boy Scouts involvement is still questionable and he is waiting for a response from the new leader of the Troop. The Church is behind the project and the Commissions involvement. Clean-up of trash and glass is done. Professor Stephen Burg, Jeannie Glass and Robin Lighty have provided research. Lower Paxton Township was one of the largest holders of slaves in the 1700s. Robin Lighty provided a list of slave names. People of colored background are buried to the West of the Church and some of these people have other people buried on top of them. Jim Doyle, from Natures Way, will also be assisting with this project. Bill Minsker mentioned a picture of Sexton House showing the woods to the North.

B. Future presentations

- 1) Research Committee will be doing a presentation in November on the GIS project they have been working on.**
- 2) Dr. Rodney Ross, Professor of History at HACC, is publishing a book on "History of Harrisburg during WW2". Denise Deimler motioned to contact Dr. Ross for a presentation in August and the motion was seconded by Kristy Kessler. Motion was approved by all. Dr. Ross's book is being released on May 31st on Amazon.**
- 3) Other presentations suggested were History of Local Farms in LPT and History of the Police Department in LPT.**

C. Begin recording personal histories

Bill Minsker will begin this project as soon as COVID restrictions are lifted. His first interview will be with Laverne Yingst. He will check for interviews done by the old Lower Paxton Township Historical Society done by Helen Pinkerman.

New Business

None.

Commission Members Comments

Bill Minsker gave an update on the Heroes Grove project. He said the roof is up, lighting is done and sound system will be done soon. He also submitted an application to the Rotary Club.

Another project discussed was the Commission closet which needs to be inventoried and catalogued. This can, possibly, be done this summer or fall.

Don Goss presented the Commission an of bag from the Harrisburg National Bank and Trust Company, which contained wooden nickels.

Public Comment

None.

The meeting was motioned to be adjourned at 7:30pm by Kristy Kessler and seconded by Denise Deimler.