

**PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 24, 2003
MINUTES**

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was held on September 24th, 2003 in the Board Room of the State Museum, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The following Commissioners were present: Wayne S. Spilove, Chairman; Dr. William A. Cornell, Representative Thomas C. Corrigan, Robert A. Janosov, Janet S. Klein, Representative Stephen Maitland, Dr. Brian C. Mitchell, Dawn Morrow representing Senator Jane Earll, Kathleen Pavelko, Senator Allyson Y. Schwartz, Teresa Colarusso representing Senator Schwartz and Allen M. Wenger. The following staff were present: John Wesley, Doreen McCall, Anita Blackaby, Jean Cutler, Frank Suran, Donna Williams, Marilyn Levin, Ira Smith and Robert Weible. Marcia Gobrecht represented the Pennsylvania Heritage Society.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Spilove called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Chairman Spilove welcomed Cheryl McClenney-Brooker and Rhonda R. Cohen to the Commission.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 18, 2003

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Wenger moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Mr. Janosov. The minutes were approved unanimously.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Spilove gave a brief update on the search for Executive Director. He reported that the Search Committee and Governor's Office were working on background

checks on candidates. The Search Committee will report to the Commission on the search for Executive Director at the next Commission meeting in November.

Chairman Spilove reported that he visited the following sites: Somerset Historical Center, Bushy Run Battlefield, Fort Pitt Museum, Old Economy Village, Erie Maritime Museum, Drake Well Museum and Pennsylvania Lumber Museum. Chairman Spilove thanked Donna Williams and Bruce Bazelon for their contribution to the Commission and appreciation for making all of the arrangements.

IV. INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wesley reported that the State Museum of Pennsylvania received an IMS Grant in the amount of \$96,463 to be used in expanding the Distance Learning Program. The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania received an IMS Grant in the amount of \$58,313 to be used in expansion of the educational program.

Mr. Wesley announced that a Travel and Tourism Partnership Commission was created by Governor Rendell. An Inter-Agency Committee was appointed and made up of representatives from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The Pennsylvania Travel and Tourism Council will also join the Committee. The purpose of the committee is to organize and facilitate collaboration between agencies with respect to travel and tourism projects and initiatives. Mr. Wesley has been asked to chair the Committee.

Mr. Wesley reported on the 2003-04 Rebudget which represented an overall reduction of 12% - 16% from last year's operating budget. Mr. Wesley reported that

senior staff have been cooperative in assisting with making adjustments and complying with imposed reductions.

The Commission is currently preparing the budget submission for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. We are required to submit efficiency measures, cost savings initiatives, a budget submission broken down to the minor object level and other changes.

Mr. Wesley reported that he will request a million dollar reinstatement of the Major Maintenance Appropriation. He believes it is important to the preservation maintenance of the Commission's museums and historic sites.

Senator Schwartz asked if the Commission was asked to change or slow down our work on the State Museum and Archives Renovation project. She commented on the work completed on the new entrance to the State Museum and hoped that this project is proceeding on schedule.

Chairman Spilove commented that he met with the Budget Secretary, the Governor's Chief of Staff to go over the capital budget request. We reviewed the life safety issues and the resurfacing of the outside walls of the Pennsylvania Archives tower.

Senator Schwartz asked for clarification on whether or not the Budget Office would spend the money on improvements. Chairman Spilove commented that the Budget Office is concerned how the money will be spent. The money cannot be spent in a lump sum; it will have to be spread out over a period of time.

Mr. Wesley reported that he will meet with Secretary Masch within the next month or so to revisit this phasing priority. The Budget Office is being cautious about how they are approaching this issue. He expects the phasing schedule will look at the

health and safety issues first and hopefully then phase the project as it had been originally designed.

Senator Schwartz said that she was committed to this project and would like to be kept up to date on this project.

V. COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve a courtesy resolution for Gary Wolfe. On motion by Representative Maitland, seconded by Senator Schwartz, the following courtesy resolution was approved:

09.01.03 WHEREAS, Gary D. Wolfe, Deputy Secretary of Education and Commissioner for Libraries, is a distinguished administrator and librarian who has served the citizens of Pennsylvania throughout his career; and,

WHEREAS, Gary D. Wolfe, has represented the Secretary of Education of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission since September 1995 and has an outstanding record of attendance at meetings of the Commission; and,

WHEREAS, Gary D. Wolfe, has served as a member of the Commission's Publications, Historical Markers and Grants Committees and has been a strong advocate of making our rich history accessible to the citizens of this Commonwealth; and,

WHEREAS, Gary D. Wolfe, has diligently supported the use of technology and Web-based applications to promote history in our schools; and,

WHEREAS, Gary D. Wolfe, has served as a member of the Pennsylvania State Historical Records Advisory Board since March 2000; and has consistently provided assistance with board-sponsored activities and events, especially in regard to the board's new strategic plan, *Documenting Pennsylvania and Its Peoples*, and the five-year Action Plan; and,

WHEREAS, Gary D. Wolfe has been faithful in aiding and assisting the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Commonwealth in promoting the preservation of Pennsylvania's heritage;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission expresses its deep appreciation to Gary D. Wolfe for his many years of service to the citizens of this Commonwealth and recognizes his extraordinary professional commitment to preserving and promoting the history of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Williams reported on the Ellis R. Bachman courtesy resolution. Mr. Bachman was instrumental in preserving the Strasburg Railroad; he worked with the Friends of the Railroad Museum and also volunteered. He was involved with the Pennsylvania Dutch Visitors and Convention Bureau. Mr. Bachman passed away on July 21, 2003

Ms. Williams reported on the Patricia Leiphart courtesy resolution. Ms. Leiphart was a museum educator at Old Economy Village and has worked for the Commission since 1974. Ms. Leiphart has retired.

Ms. Williams reported on the Michael Prestys courtesy resolution. Mr. Prestys was a maintenance repairman at Anthracite Heritage Museum and Scranton Iron Furnaces. Mr. Prestys has retired.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the following courtesy resolutions for Ellis R. Bachman, Patricia Leiphart and Michael Prestys. On motion by Mr. Janosov, seconded by Ms. Klein, the following courtesy resolutions were approved:

09.02.03 WHEREAS, Ellis R. Bachman of Strasburg, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania was a respected and active community leader and a strong supporter of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania for many years; and

WHEREAS, he actively took part in the life of the community and preservation of its heritage through membership in the Strasburg Borough Planning Commission, serving as first president of the Strasburg Heritage Society and Treasurer of the Strasburg Borough Planning Commission, serving as first president of the Strasburg Heritage Society and Treasurer of the Strasburg Volunteer Fire Company, establishing the Strasburg Ambulance Association, and singing with the Ephrata Cloister Chorus; and

WHEREAS, he promoted railroad heritage tourism in Lancaster County and was Chairman of the Pennsylvania Dutch Convention and Visitors Bureau, member of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Travel Council, Vice President of Administration and Corporate Secretary of the Strasburg Rail Road; and

WHEREAS, Ellis R. Bachman held a number of positions that assisted in the creation, promotion and operation of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania and the Friends of the Railroad Museum. He was a founding board member and charter member of the Friends, served as Treasurer of the FRM for many years, and he served as a loyal volunteer interpreting its large collection to visitors, young and old, and serving as an ambassador for the Railroad Museum on many occasions; and

WHEREAS, these accomplishments and contributions of Ellis R. Bachman to his community, profession and business associations resulted in significant betterment of the quality of life in the Strasburg, Lancaster County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;

WHEREAS, his death on July 21, 2003 marked the passing of a true friend and gentleman;

NOW THERE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission expresses its appreciation for Ellis R. Bachman and his many contributions to the programs of the agency and heritage preservation in the commonwealth. He possessed a great passion for railroad history and an extensive knowledge of the subject and his enthusiasm, effort and commitment provide inspiration to all who share that passion and interest;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission extends its sincere condolences and best wishes to his family, in particular, his loving wife Nancy Bachman.

09.03.03 Patricia WHEREAS, Patricia Leiphart began her employment with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in 1974 as the manager of the Fort LeBoeuf/Judson House historic sites in Waterford, Pennsylvania; and,

WHEREAS, her duties were expanded to include the Commission's historic sites in Erie, the Old Custom House, Cashier's House and Flagship Niagara in 1978 where she served through 1987; and

WHEREAS, Patricia Leiphart was appointed to the position of Educator and Internship Coordinator at Old Economy Village in 1987; and,

WHEREAS, Patricia Leiphart was assigned many administrative duties at Old Economy Village while continuing as educator, and she was promoted in 1997 and began supervising both the Custodial Guide staff and the Volunteer Guide programs; and,

WHEREAS, Patricia Leiphart has recently retired from PHMC service and continues, with her husband Warren Kineer, to continue to contribute many volunteer hours to the development and care of Old Economy, in particular the Baker House garden and herb garden,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission extends its commendations and appreciation to Patricia Leiphart for her twenty nine years of dedicated service and many contributions to the agency and expresses its gratitude for her continued commitment to the gardening program at Old Economy Village. The Commission further wishes Patricia Leiphart well in her future pursuits.

09.04.03 WHEREAS, Michael “Mike” Prestys retired on June 30, 2003 from Commonwealth employment after 25 years of service at Anthracite Heritage Museum and Scranton Iron Furnaces; and,

WHEREAS, Mike Prestys worked as a highly skilled tradesman, technician, craftsman, carpenter, repairman, and custodian at a major PHMC industrial museum and historic site; and,

WHEREAS, Mike’s many roles extended to providing guidance and assistance to the preservation, maintenance and security programs at Eckley Miners Village and the Museum of Anthracite Mining at Ashland as well; and,

WHEREAS, Mike Prestys brought to the job a work ethic above reproach, moving mountains time and time again in the overall stewardship and operation of the Anthracite Heritage Museum and Scranton Iron Furnaces; and,

WHEREAS, Mike Prestys enjoyed the respect of his colleagues for his boundless knowledge, energy, and dedication to the anthracite legacy,

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission gratefully acknowledges the contributions and hard work of Michael Prestys at the Anthracite Museum Complex for a quarter of a century. His legacy of work, pride in a job well done, and commitment to the people of Pennsylvania reflects the very legacy he helped to preserve in the anthracite community. The PHMC wishes Michael Prestys and enjoyable and rewarding retirement.

Mr. Wesley reported that Oil Creek next to the Drake Well Museum in Titusville had overflowed its bank by 3 to 4 feet and had caused considerable damage to several of the interpretive and utility buildings. The contents of the museum were not affected.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve a resolution allowing the Commission to apply for federal assistance under the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. On motion by Mr. Janosov, seconded by Representative Maitland, the following resolution was approved:

09.05.03 RESOLVED, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission authorizes the staff to apply for federal assistance under the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act for extensive damage suffered at Drake Well Museum in Titusville during the storm on July 21, 2003 and authorizes Donna Williams to execute all required forms and documents for the purpose of obtaining financial assistance under the Act.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve a resolution to be prepared by Mr. Wesley for Dr. LeRoy Patrick recognizing his 25 years serving on the Commission. On motion by Dr. Mitchell, seconded by Representative Corrigan, motion approved unanimously.

VI. OTHER REPORTS

B. Keystone Grants

Ms. Cutler reported that the Keystone Grants Program provides brick and mortar support for redeveloping historic structures that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Lists of the programs were enclosed with Commission packet. This program is very popular, unfortunately the funding was cut about 50%. We have had over \$5 million worth of requests we were only able to fund less than \$2 million. Also enclosed with the packet were the results for General Operating Support Grants for Museums.

At this time Ms. Cutler invited Mr. Ira Smith to discuss the grants program. Mr. Smith commented that the most important factor is the Keystone Recreation Project Fund to the Commission was cut by 50%. Existing grants were reviewed and it was discovered that some grants had not moved forward and that they could not be completed as proposed or within the project term. These projects were cancelled and \$600,000 was recovered for reallocation.

Two panels reviewed the grants and came up with a prioritized listing. Various models were reviewed for funding: 90-80-70 percent level. The panel looked at what we had and concluded that if we reduced some of the larger grants, we could increase the number of awards.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Keystone Historic Preservation Grant Program for FY2003-2004. On motion by Ms. Klein, seconded by Mr. Wenger the Keystone Historic Preservation Grants was approved as presented. (ATTACHMENT A)

Ms. McClenney-Brooker asked for clarification about the panel process. Mr. Smith stated that the peer review panel process has been used from the beginning of the program. This year because of the budget crisis the panel was not required to meet face to face in Harrisburg. Mr. Smith said that this did help save some money but he received input from all panelists stating they felt it was critical to meet face to face.

Mr. Wesley commented that this was his decision based on effort to conserve funding however panels would be authorized next year to meet in person. He commented that both he and Chairman Spilove received a number of calls concerning the panels not meeting and it was clear we should return to our former process.

Mr. Janosov asked if applicants have been informed. Mr. Smith said the Keystone Grant applicants have not been informed. Mr. Janosov asked when the applicant is informed is it indicated why they were not funded. Mr. Smith said if an applicant is awarded a grant they receive an award letter signed by the Chairman and Executive Director with a copy of the contract. If the applicant was not awarded a grant they

receive a rejection letter with a telephone number and a grant manager to talk with to go over the comments from the panel.

Senator Schwartz asked if they were rated on merit not geographic location. Mr. Janosov stated that he was always under the impression that some attention was given to geographic location. Mr. Smith said that during the initial review process there is no rating given to geographic location, only the quality of the project application. During the process of deciding how to fund the recommendations of the panelists, the staff will look at the geography. If there is an area that is poorly represented, the staff would come up with models to spread the money in a more equitable manner.

Mr. Smith reported on the Statewide Conference Grant for the Vernacular Architecture Forum in Harrisburg on May 12-16, 2004. This forum is put together by Max Kade Institute, Penn State University, Lancaster County Historical Society, Franklin and Marshall College and Preservation Pennsylvania. Project attendance is estimated at 350 attendees. The recommendation is for \$4,000.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to accept the recommendation for the Statewide Conference Grant for Vernacular Architecture Forum. Mr. Janosov moved to accept the recommendation, Ms. Klein seconded. Motion approved to accept the Statewide Conference Grant for Vernacular Architecture Forum. (ATTACHMENT B)

Ms. Klein asked how the forum will be publicized. Mr. Smith said it will be publicized through the various the sponsors and it will be on the grants website. Mr. Janosov asked if announcements have gone out for presentation of proposals at the conference. Mr. Smith indicated that he thought they had.

C. National Register (NR) Nominations

Ms. Cutler reported that the Historic Preservation Board met on September 9, 2003. All nominations to the National Register were approved with the exception of the Upper Roxborough Historic District, which was tabled.

D. Historic Ordinance

Ms. Cutler reported on the Request for Certification by the Township of Franklin, County of Chester. The township is requesting that the Commission certify that the district is historic.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the Request for Certification by the Township of Franklin, County of Chester. On motion by Mr. Klein, seconded by Dr. Mitchell, the following resolution was approved:

09.06.03 Resolved that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission certifies to the historical significance of the Kemblesville Historic District of the Township of Franklin, Chester County, Pennsylvania as delineated in Ordinance No. 2003-06, adopted August 21, 2003.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

VI. OTHER REPORTS

A. Historical Marker Recommendations

Ms. Pavelko announced that the ExplorePAhistory project received a 3 year continuation of the Teaching America's History Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education totaling \$985,190. Ms. Pavelko said the work on the project and proposal is a result of a partnership; Robert Weible is responsible for the historical content and curriculum material written by the Ridgeway School District.

Representative Maitland reported on four Historical Marker Recommendations. Representative Maitland called for approval of the Historical Marker Recommendations.

Mr. Janosov moved that the Historical Marker Recommendations be approved, Ms. McClenney-Brooker seconded. Motion approved to accept the Historical Marker Recommendations (ATTACHMENT C).

Robert Weible gave a brief presentation on the Historic Marker Program. Mr. Weible distributed copies of the PA Heritage Magazine. The magazine included an article of the historic marker program. Mr. Weible noted that the Historic Marker Program is one of the oldest and most successful programs of the Commission

Mr. Weible discussed the policies for approval of historical markers. All nominations received are from outside sources. This program is run as a partnership with individuals and organizations throughout the state. Commission staff rarely nominate markers for consideration. The staff works with nominators to improve nominations so that they are in compliance with policies. Nominations are then reviewed by a panel that meets once a year chaired by Representative Maitland. Every nomination receives full review. The review process is rigorous only about 30-40% of the nominations received are approved. Those recommendations will come to the commission at the March 2004 meeting. In the past the Commission has voted to accept the recommendations as a group.

Once markers are approved or disapproved the Commission will work with the nominators. If the marker is disapproved we will work with the nominator so that they will understand why the Commission disapproved the nomination. If the nomination has

merit it is possible it could be reconsidered. If it is likely that the marker will not be approved, the staff will work nominators to install a local marker.

If a marker is approved, the Commission will work with the nominator to prepare a text for the marker and work to arrange the dedications. All marker dedications are open to the public. The Commission provides a grant to cover half the costs.

Mr. Janosov reported that he represented the Commission at the Pete Gray Wyshner marker dedication on August 24, 2003. He provided a booklet of the marker dedication which lists sponsors of the marker. Mr. Janosov commended Commission for the quality of the program.

Ms. McClenney-Brooker asked if an applicant is turned down do they usually reapply. Mr. Weible said in some cases yes and in a few cases the panel will ask them to reapply. Often times the marker will get an approval the second or third time around. There is a policy that any nomination that is rejected three years in a row may not be submitted again for another three years.

Representative Maitland commented that over time panels change therefore their priorities change.

Senator Schwartz asked what percentage of markers approved actually get setup. Mr. Weible said markers that have been nominated in the past ten years about 90% have been setup.

Ms. Klein asked about the list of orphaned markers. Mr. Weible said that there are a number of orphaned markers. They are worthy of a marker but have no local sponsors. Ms. Klein asked if the list could be redistributed to Commissioners to find local sponsors for the markers. Mr. Weible said yes.

Mr. Weible reported that at the November meeting there will be two seats on the marker panels that will be open and will need approval of recommendation on how to fill those positions. Mr. Weible added that the PHMC is represented at all marker dedications. Mr. Wesley and the Chairman will work to make sure all Commissioners are given the opportunity to represent the Commission.

Mr. Wesley reviewed upcoming marker dedications and asked Commissioners if they were available to represent the Commission. If Commissioners are not available generally staff is available to represent the Commission.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. BHP Poster Launch

Ms. Cutler announced that the Bureau for Historic Preservation is hosting a poster launch at noon today in the main capitol of the rotunda. There is a general consensus that the Bureau for Historic Preservation does not have adequate visibility throughout the state regarding the work that they do to improve the quality of life. In an effort to change, the bureau is conducting their first public program following the Commission meeting in the Rotunda of the Main Capitol. The community of Jim Thorpe is featured on the poster for this year's theme: historic downtowns and how their preservation contributes to the quality of life in communities, contribute to education, business, economic development and tourism.

Secretary Yablonsky has been invited to be a partner and to speak with the group. The Secretary is from the Department of Community and Economic Development. Representative Lynn Hermann will speak about the revitalization of the History Caucus.

Friends from Jim Thorpe will also be in attendance. The community of Jim Thorpe has been one of the communities that has historic preservation successes.

At this time Chairman Spilove asked Mr. Suran to share with the Commission statistics on the Civil War Service Record Cards. Mr. Suran reported over the last three months the total activity for the Civil War Service Record Cards have been 4.7 million hits. The ExplorePAhistory website received 3.5 million hits. Mr. Janosov asked if each page accessed was being monitored. Ms. Pavelko said yes.

Mr. Suran brought a map dating 1769. He hopes this map will be conserved this year with the help of the Pennsylvania Heritage Society. The cost of this project will run \$4,000 - \$4,500.

Ms. Williams reported on the ABC book. This book is a bound manuscript that is part of the collection at Ephrata Cloister. It is a copybook for the scripters who worked at Ephrata in making all the wall charts. The book contains 4 sets of alphabet letters decorated in different ways. This manuscript was last restored about 50 years ago and is in need of restoration again. The cost of this project will run \$10,000 - \$12,000.

Mr. Wesley reported on the Pennsylvania Heritage Society. Marcia Gobrecht serves as the manager for the Society. Ms. Gobrecht reported that each year the Society conducts an annual appeal. The Society focuses on a document that the members could relate to. The past appeals have been for: Indian garments, first purchasers, and the petticoat at Pennsbury Manor. The item is usually on display during Heritage Week. This year's appeal will go out at the end of the year.

Mr. Wesley reported that a staff committee was created to study marketing of the Pennsylvania Heritage Magazine. Mr. Wesley has reviewed some of the findings. He

will receive an update report from Ken Wolensky. Mr. Wolensky is the facilitator for the committee. Mr. Wesley said he will give a report to the Commission at the November meeting of the Pennsylvania Heritage Society.

At this time Chairman Spilove introduced Walter Powell from Gettysburg and the chairman HARB CLG (name?)

Chairman Spilove thanked Ms. Klein for meeting with him and reviewing her records and thanked John Wesley and senior staff for their help to make what was written about PHMC a reality and allowing him to experience what the Commission is about.

Chairman Spilove announced that Mrs. Cheney visited Washington Crossing Historic Park last Wednesday. Mrs. Cheney spent an hour touring the park. She also gave a \$2,500 check to the Washington Crossing Historic Park.

B. Information on Lauxmont Farm

Mr. Wesley reported that Lauxmont Farm in York County is a property endangered by development. Originally a larger track of land, it was reduced to about 2,000 acres a few years ago. It was then further subdivided, 1,200 acres were sold off into 1,2,3,4,5 acres lots. At this point, the farm is down to about 800 acres.

Mr. Wesley passed around a report to the Commission detailing the ideas and values of the site. He noted that there is strong evidence based on archaeology that has been done that this particular site was a main location for the Susquehannock Indians.

This site has not been developed. It is not clear at this time how the Commission might be involved in this historic site or museum but the administration is interested in the property and there is a possibility that the Commission and DCNR maybe approached about a partnership.

Mr. Wesley believes this project has a tremendous amount of visibility and offers the Commission an opportunity to positively exploit the history of Native Americans. He hopes the Commission recognizes this project as being able to tell a side of the historic preservation effort, archaeology program and conservation of the historic and natural resources. Mr. Wesley said he will keep the Commission informed on this project.

At this time, Mr. Wesley invited everyone to take a brief tour of the new entrance to the State Museum.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to adjournment. Ms. Pavelko so moved, Dr. Mitchell seconded for adjournment. Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.