

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 19, 2003
MINUTES

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was held on November 19, 2003, in the Board Room of the State Museum, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The following Commissioners were present: Wayne S. Spilove, Chairman; Rhonda R. Cohen, Dr. William A. Cornell, Representative Thomas C. Corrigan, Senator Jane Earll, Dawn Marron representing Senator Earll, Robert A. Janosov, Janet S. Klein, Representative Stephen Maitland, Cheryl McClenney-Brooker, Dr. Brian C. Mitchell, Kathleen Pavelko, Senator Allyson Y. Schwartz, Teresa Colarusso representing Senator Schwartz and Allen M. Wenger. The following staff were present: John Wesley, Doreen McCall, Jack Leighow, Jean Cutler, Frank Suran, Donna Williams, Marilyn Levin, Diane Reed, Kenneth Wolensky. Marcia Gobrecht and Joan Dorko represented the Pennsylvania Heritage Society. Jackie Kramer represented the Farm and Natural Lands Trust of York County and Mark Platts represented the Lancaster-York Heritage Region. Amanda Fuselli assistant to Mr. Spilove.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Spilove called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2003

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Marron stated her last name should read "Marron". Representative Maitland moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Representative Corrigan. Minutes were approved with changes.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Spilove gave a brief update on the search for Executive Director. He reported that the committee is scheduled to interview a candidate this afternoon and has received two proposals from search firms. If a candidate is selected the Committee will report back to the Commission during an executive session.

Senator Schwartz asked for clarification on the use of a search firm. Chairman Spilove said that the administration has given the Commission permission to use a search firm to move forward with the search for executive director.

IV. INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wesley reported that the Commission is a part of an Inter-Agency Committee for the Travel and Tourism Partnership Commission created by Governor Rendell. This Committee is designed to come up with a variety of proposals and plans for furthering the partnership of travel and tourism using the Commonwealth's resources. The first Inter-Agency Committee meeting was held on November 18, 2003. The following representatives were present: Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, Department of Agriculture, Community and Economic Development, Pennsylvania Travel Council, The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and a variety of other organizations that are state related. The committee is beginning to define ideas and plans on how to undertake a more aggressive partnering with various agencies. The Travel and Tourism Partnership Commission will meet in Philadelphia on December 10. Mr. Wesley will report back to the Commission on this meeting.

Mr. Wesley reported that a meeting was held with Governor Rendell regarding the proposal of Lauxmont Farms. The administration is very supportive of this project. Mr. Wesley believes this project has a tremendous amount of visibility and offers the Commission a favorable impression of historic preservation, archaeology program and conservation. The Commission has issued a letter of intent the Secretary Michael Diberardinis of the Department of Community and Natural Resources to express the understanding between the Department and PHMC regarding the preservation of the Lauxmont Farms property, which is located on the Susquehanna River in Lower Windsor Township, York County. Mark Platts, Executive Director of the Lancaster-York Heritage Region will give a presentation on Lauxmont Farms later.

Mr. Wesley reported that the budget for 2004-2005 has been submitted to Governor Rendell. The Commission faces a \$350,000 budgetary reserve for the 2003-2004 fiscal years. This reserve is consistent with other agencies. The Commission cut back seasonal and wage positions and 28 salary positions have been cut. The Commission will have to take measurable steps to try to adjust and accommodate the budgetary reserve. Mr. Wesley has asked bureau directors for comments on the budgetary reserve and how it may affect their programs. Some possibilities could include the closing of certain programs and museums; it is clear the Commission will have to reduce the hours of operation substantially. The spring of 2004 will suffer potential cutbacks of services and maintenance of the sites.

Dr. Mitchell commented that times are tough and understands the Commission wanting to be loyal to the Governor but asked if there was anything the Commissioners could do to offset some of the difficulty that the Commission faces; possibly register the

Commission's concerns with the Governor. Senator Earll agrees we should make the Commission's case be heard.

Ms. Pavelko called for a motion for the Commission to pass a resolution in support of the letter to the Governor detailing the impact of the budget cuts to the Commission. Motion approved unanimously.

Senator Schwartz suggests that a copy of the letter be sent to all Commissioners.

Mr. Wesley reported on the Civil War Library and Museum in Philadelphia. This organization is going through considerable difficulties in dealing with its collections and how it would retain them in terms of integrity. The Attorney General, Representative Roebuck, Senator Fumo strongly supported the effort to retain the collections in Pennsylvania. A resolution has been agreed upon and the collections will be temporarily loaned to other institutions and ultimately returned to Philadelphia.

V. COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Wesley read the following resolution for Frank Suran who is retiring as Bureau Director of the Bureau of Archives and History:

11.01.03 **WHEREAS**, Frank M. Suran, has been a member of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's staff since being hired as an assistant archivist on January 2, 1969, and has since then moved through the ranks of his classification culminating with his current title of State Archivist and Director of the Bureau of Archives and History, and has announced his retirement from state service at the end of the work day on December 26, 2003; and

WHEREAS, his unflagging efforts to make the public more aware of the importance archival records play in the day to day affairs of government officials and ordinary citizens has greatly increased the public visibility of the State Archives, and

WHEREAS, during his time of service, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's archival and records management programs have experienced unprecedented growth in terms of the area of responsibility and the ability to render mandated services to the staff of the Executive, Judicial and Legislative branches of government, the thousands of local

government officials, and the tens of thousands of visitors to the Archives Search Room, and

WHEREAS, countless others have and will continue to benefit from his vision of a modern archives and his support for the use of new technologies to deliver essential evidence and information to the citizens of the Commonwealth, and

WHEREAS, as Bureau Director, he has overseen and supported the agency's public history and publications programs and supervised the publication of numerous books, leaflets, and the agency's quarterly magazine; the installation of hundreds of historical markers; the development of various public programs; and more, and

WHEREAS, his outstanding reputation among his peers and the many professional associations with which he is affiliated are testimony to his impact on his chosen profession, it is secondary to the place he holds in the minds and hearts of those who have served with him throughout the last thirty-five years, and

WHEREAS, he will be a difficult, if not impossible act to follow;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED in recognition of his thirty- five years of service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission commends Frank M. Suran for his professionalism, and leadership on the occasion of his retirement from the Commission, extends its heartfelt appreciation for his accomplishments on behalf of the Commission and the Commonwealth, and sincerely wishes him well in all his future endeavors.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve a courtesy resolution for Frank Suran. On motion by Representative Corrigan, seconded by Ms. Klein, the courtesy resolution was approved.

Mr. Suran thanked Commissioners and staff who have helped him in all his job responsibilities and helped the staff of the Bureau of Archives and History to provide outstanding service to the citizens of the Commonwealth and to government officials. He is very thankful and appreciates the support he has received. Mr. Suran stated he is disappointed that he is leaving at this time he noted that this is the 100th Anniversary of the Pennsylvania State Archives.

Mr. Suran said that it has been a pleasure working with Chairman Spilove on various programs on the Archives.

Ms. Williams reported on the following resolution for Robert Mcfadden. Mr. Mcfadden worked at the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum. Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the courtesy resolution for Robert McFadden. On motion by Ms. Klein, seconded by Mr. Janosov the resolution was approved.

11.02.03 **Whereas**, Robert L. McFadden has retired from the Position of Educator II at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, effective October 17, 2003; and,

Whereas, Robert McFadden was employed first as volunteer coordinator through the Friends of the Railroad Museum (FRM) in 1990, coming to the Museum with a Masters Degree in Education from Temple University and having considerable experience as a professional educator in the public sector with the School District of Philadelphia, as well as additional railroad experience as a Railroad Engineer on the New Hope and Ivyland Railroad and as a Cash Fare Collections Agent for the Reading Railroad; and,

Whereas, he, as Volunteer Coordinator for the FRM, developed the Museum's first volunteer training program and scheduled as many as 80 volunteers per week who performed in interpretive, restoration and research capacities. His work resulted in an increase of volunteer hours from 10,800 in 1990 to more than 17,800 in 1993; and,

Whereas, Robert F. McFadden was hired in 1992 by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission as the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania's first Educator. In this capacity Mr. McFadden was responsible for the development of a core of educational programs on railroad-related topics including a two-hour curriculum-based educational program for elementary grade students. He also worked with regional teachers to develop and design a railroad history program around units being taught in the classroom. He also developed the nucleus of a "railway education center" which eventually grew to one of the most successful educational programs offered by the Museum; and,

Whereas, he was promoted to Educator II in 1997 at which time he began to develop plans for an enlarged and more formal education center which expanded on the original core program to include a Boy Scout Railroading merit badge program; and,

Whereas, Mr. McFadden was pivotally instrumental in the development of the Museum's current "Stewart Junction" railway education center, funded and constructed on Platform One West by the North American Railway Foundation and dedicated in September, 2000, by Governor Tom Ridge. The award winning Stewart Junction

programs were developed using interactive exhibits that are appropriate for the Museum's diverse audience; and,

Whereas, Robert L. McFadden announced his retirement as the Museum's Educator effective October 17, 2003.

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission expresses its appreciation to Robert McFadden on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of school students and Museum visitors who benefited from his expertise as an educator, and for the many contributions he has made toward the preservation and interpretation of Pennsylvania's railroading history at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Williams reported on the following resolution for Jack Giblin. Mr. Giblin started working at Bushy Run Battlefield as a contract employee, and then became an educator and Site Administrator at Bushy Run Battlefield. He later took responsibility for both Bushy Run Battlefield and Fort Pitt Museum. Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the courtesy resolution for Jack Giblin. On motion by Dr. Cornell, seconded by Dr. Mitchell the following resolution was approved:

11.03.03 **WHEREAS**, since 1989 John F. Giblin served the PHMC as Museum Educator and Historic Site Administrator at Bushy Run Battlefield and Fort Pitt Museum; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Giblin has been a tremendous asset to the Historic Sites and Museums program as Historic Site Administrator for Fort Pitt Museum and Bushy Run Battlefield and has played a leadership role within the bureau, particularly with respect to reenactments and safety issues; and,

WHEREAS, John F. Giblin oversaw the development of the highly successful long term exhibit at Bushy Run Battlefield, developed a strong associate group at Bushy Run Battlefield, and continued the development of their annual battle reenactment as a highly successful and self sustaining program; and,

WHEREAS, he was one of the originators of the War for Empire project to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the French and Indian Wars and worked tirelessly to create partnerships with other historic sites, community leaders and the tourism industry; and,

WHEREAS, he initiated and led the effort to acquire historic property adjacent to Bushy Run Battlefield and played a central role in finding financial support for it; and,

WHEREAS, John F. Giblin performed a crucial role in the planning and construction of the extensive renovations at Fort Pitt Museum and the creation of a new exhibit gallery; and,

WHEREAS, for the past 2 years John F. Giblin has been working on a special assignment with the Army to develop a plan and program for the new Army Heritage Center in Carlisle, one of several institutions comprising the National Museum of the United States Army, and has been recognized for his contributions through the offer of the position, Senior Curator, Army Heritage Center.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission expresses its appreciation to John F. Giblin for 14 years of outstanding service to the historic sites and museum program and recognizes his many lasting contributions. The Commission further wishes him well in all future endeavors.

Ms. Williams reported on the Courtesy Resolution for Joseph Priestley.

11.04.03 Joseph Priestley, noted British theologian, natural philosopher, educator and political theorist was born on March 13, 1733 at Fieldhead near Leeds, West Yorkshire, England, emigrated to the United States of America on April 8, 1794 and resided at Northumberland, Pennsylvania where he died on February 6, 1803; and

WHEREAS, the year 2004 marks the 200th anniversary of Joseph Priestley's passing; and

WHEREAS, The Priestley Society of Birstall and Heckmondwike, West Yorkshire, England wishes to commemorate the life of Joseph Priestley during this 200th anniversary year with a special weekend of historical activities, meetings, exhibitions and colloquium highlighting Joseph Priestley's achievements; and

WHEREAS, The Priestley Society wishes to establish a formal contact with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Joseph Priestley House, and the Borough of Northumberland, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission administers the Joseph Priestley House in Northumberland as a memorial to Joseph Priestley, a figure of great historical significance in the inquiries of theology, chemistry, education and political thought;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission sends greetings and congratulations to the Priestley Society of Birstall and Heckmondwike on the occasion of this special program commemorating the life and contributions of Joseph Priestley on February 6, 7, and 8, 2004 in West Yorkshire, England, and acknowledge and applaud the Society's efforts to forge an

international relationship with shared goals of preserving and interpreting the legacy of Joseph Priestley for generations yet to come.

VI. OTHER REPORTS

a. Report on Lauxmont Farms

Mr. Wesley introduced Mark Platts, Executive Director of the Lancaster-York Heritage Region. Mr. Platts thanked Mr. Wesley for inviting him to give a presentation to the Commission on the Susquehanna Riverlands Preservation Project: A Concept for the Preservation of Lauxmont Farms and Adjoining Lands. This is a partnership that is being led by the Farm and Natural Lands Trust of York County and the Lancaster-York Heritage Region. Others involved in the project are Local and County Government, Commonwealth of PA, Federal Government and private sources.

The purpose of the project is to establish a signature park, heritage site and conservation center that will showcase the historic, cultural and environmental resources of the Lower Susquehanna River Valley. Lauxmont Farms is located along the Susquehanna River between Lancaster and York. Some of the adjoining lands that surround the farm are: Gateway Farmstead, Mansion House, Historic Dairy Complex, Klines Run Park, Byrd Liebhart Indian Site. Lauxmont Farms provides scenic views overlooking the Susquehanna River from highpoint as well as scenic views of the farm from the Susquehanna River. The scenic vistas were recognized in 1986 by National Geographic Magazine which featured an article called Susquehanna: America's Small-Town River.

The Byrd-Liebhart Site was the last village of the Susquehannock Indians in 1675. An archaeological dig was conducted in the early 1970's which documented a lot of the history of the site. This site documents a transitional period when the Indians were

influenced by European immigration. After the transitional period there were significant developments of historic farmsteads on the land by English settlers.

Included in the history and heritage of the Susquehanna Riverlands Preservation Project are: historic farmsteads; S. Forry Laucks – York Industrialist; Charles Downing Lay – Pioneer of American Landscape Architecture 1923 Swimming Pool & Terraced Gardens; Delano & Aldrich – Nationally Acclaimed 20th Century Architects 1927 Mansion House and the Delano & Aldrich – 1932 Automated Dairy Complex.

Since 2003 the land has been in bankruptcy, neglect and development. The Indian site is at risk with the proposal to build over 800 homes on the land.

The concept plan includes a Susquehanna Riverlands Park – a state or community park including newly acquired Lauxmont and adjoining lands and possibly nearby Sam Lewis State Park; a Susquehanna Riverlands Center – a gateway visitor orientation, education and conservation center focused on the historic, cultural and environmental resources of the Lower Susquehanna River Valley; a Susquehannock Indian Heritage Center – a museum and education facility, possibly developed by Pennsylvania’s Historical and Museum Commission as the State’s first Indian heritage site; Preserved Farmland – highest quality farmland protected with conservation easements and sold to a local working farmer.

The Susquehanna Riverlands Project will contribute to economic development by: Creating new venues for tourism development focused on the Susquehanna River. Attracting and educating visitors, residents and students about the river’s natural and recreational resources. Providing direct & indirect spending impacts to local

communities, the region and the state. Promoting public and private partnerships. Complementing other heritage and ecotourism initiatives throughout the region.

The funding plan includes a projected acquisition cost: an appraised value of Kohr Family Parcels of \$9.5 million; adjoining private/utility parcels \$3.3 million and approximately \$500,000 spent on legal fees; the total projected facility and site development cost is \$7 million. The total projected project cost is \$20.3 million.

Funding partners for the project include: Lower Windsor Township, PA Capital Budget; DCNR Community Partnerships, York County Government, Federal Sources, Sale of Prime Farmland and private fundraising and foundations.

Ms. Klein asked if the project was part of the federal heritage region. Mr. Platts said it was not. It is part of an area called the Chesapeake Bay Gateway Network; a National Park Service network of sites that are focused on the bay and its tributaries.

Representative Maitland asked if any part of the land was on the National Register. Mr. Platts said no but that they are eligible.

Mr. Wesley thanked Mark Platts and Jackie Kramer for their presentation to the Commission on the Susquehanna Riverlands Preservation Project.

c. Report on Founder's Award Program

Dr. Cornell gave a brief report on the Founder's Award Program. The committee met and has nominated a recipient for the award to the Governor. Once we have approval from the Governor we will work together with his office to setup a date for the program either late January early February.

d Report on State Museum and Archives Renovation Project

Mr. Wesley reported that over the past two months as a result of a meeting with Secretary Cunningham, the Department of General Services (DGS) and the Governor's Office challenged the Commission to come up with an alternative funding plan. Phase the \$92 million renovation project for the Archives and State Museum. Several plans were discussed. We settled on a phasing plan that would propose the release of \$10 million this year another \$10 million next year; \$30 million the 3rd year and the remainder of the \$92 million after that. To date we have expended about \$12 million.

Mr. Wesley has received feedback from DGS and Governor's Office that \$10 million is a large figure and may not be viable. The Commission may have to come up with a plan that would address health and safety issues. An example would be the outside lining of the Archives falling off.

Mr. Wesley is aware that this is a priority to the Commission and would like to keep this project moving forward with some momentum.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Appointment of a Grants Committee

Chairman Spilove announced that a grants committee will be formed sometime mid-December.

b. Old Economy Village Orientation Film

It was suggested in order to save time to delay viewing the orientation film until after the meeting adjourns.

c. Interagency Land Use Task Force

Mr. Wesley suggested we post pone this until the next Commission Meeting on March 17, 2004.

d. PHMC Farmland Preservation Policy

Ms. Cutler reported that the task force is working to bring all the agencies together to assist the Commonwealth to conserve its farmland and preserve the history and quality of life in rural communities for both its citizens and its visitors.

The Executive Order 2003-02, Agricultural Land Preservation Policy, requires all state agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction to work together to preserve prime agricultural lands.

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to approve the PHMC Farmland Preservation Policy. Mr. Janosov so moved, Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion. The following resolution was approved:

11.05.03 To comply with Executive Order 2003-2, PHMC will cooperate with other state government agencies, not for profit organizations, and local governments to identify historic farmsteads, farms, agricultural processing facilities, and rural historic districts that encompass prime agricultural land.

Pursuant to federal regulations, PHMC will evaluate and nominate eligible agricultural resources to the National Register of Historic Places. It will support education, interpretation, and rehabilitation programs through the History & Museum Grants and Keystone Historic Preservation Grant programs. It will advise and support local government entities wishing to use state laws to protect historic agricultural resources. It will advise property owners wishing to utilize the Federal Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit (RITC) program for the rehabilitation of historic buildings.

PHMC will also complete a statewide historic context for Pennsylvania agricultural to enable property owners and municipalities to identify and evaluate the historic significance of their prime agricultural lands and other resources.

As an aid to community planning and development, PHMC will share data mapping information on the Commonwealth's historic resources that is maintained in PHMC's Geographic Information System with other state government agencies, local governments, authorities and planning commissions.

e. Historical Marker Review Panel Membership

Dr. Cornell moved to approve the Historical Marker Review Panel Membership. Motion seconded by Mr. Janasov. Motion approved unanimously to accept the Historical Marker Review Panel memberships. (SEE ATTACHMENT A)

f. Black History Advisory Committee Nominations

Representative Maitland moved to approve the Black History Advisory Committee Nominations. Motion seconded by Dr. Cornell. Motion approved unanimously to accept the Black History Advisory Committee Nominations for John Logan, Reginald Irvis, Linda Tardy Wilson and Sherman Wooden. (SEE ATTACHMENT B)

g. Preservation Board Nomination

Ms. Klein moved to approve the Preservation Board Nomination for Emanuel Kelly. Motion seconded by Dr. Mitchell. Motion approved unanimously to accept the Emanuel Kelly as a member of the State Historic Preservation Board. (SEE ATTACHMENT C)

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Spilove called for a motion to adjournment. So moved, seconded for adjournment. Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.