

The Lower Merion Historical Society
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 15, 2011
The Lower Merion Academy
(Revised)

Present: Jerry Francis, Sam Adenbaum, Steve Selinger, Sarah Perthes, Ted, Goldsborough, Anna O’Hora, Leon Levine, Ken Brier, Max Buten, and Bobbie McElroy.

Absent: Ross Mitchell, Joanne Murray, Sarah Francis, Bruce Reed, and Dennis Montagna.

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM. Ted led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of June 16, 2011.

REPORTS:

Cynwyd Train Station (Phase 2): Doug Bagley remains our caretaker. In the future, a portion of first floor will be rented and used as office space. The *Certificate of Occupancy* has been issued by Lower Merion Township, so now both the first floor and basement can be used. Jay Lefkowitz has shown an interest in opening a Bike Shop as the first floor tenant.

Cynwyd Train Station Outside Area (Phase 3): Weather permitting, the plan is to have completed the painting of the outside of the station by the end of September. The Historical Society will have to install two french drains on the Conshohocken State Road side of the building because control of the storm water remains an unresolved issue. Rainwater coming from the roof area is an ongoing problem. It will need to be captured and used on site in the surrounding landscape. Gavin Riggall of North Street Design, along with Sarah Francis, are scheduled to do a program on rainwater management on LMTV’s Comcast Channel 7 and Verizon FiOS Channel 37.

Cynwyd Train Station PennDOT Grant: Final sign-off and approval for this project seems to be stuck in Washington, D.C. Hopefully we will hear by Spring 2012 about a timeline for construction. Also, storm water issues could slow up rental of the first floor office area.

Cynwyd Heritage Trail Update: Ribbon cutting ceremonies have been re-scheduled for Sunday, October 23rd at 1:00pm. Parking will be at the Barmouth Station and at the Bala Cynwyd Playground areas. The *Friends of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail* expect to offer hayrides and a variety of games.

Preserve America Grant: This grant is for signage and website for the Trail. So far, the Historical Society has put in 618 hours of volunteer time that can be converted to \$7,416 in value. The specifications for the signs are about ready to go out for bids.

Treasurer's Report: Sam Adenbaum presented the 5 page Treasurer's Report as of August 31, 2011, containing Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss Statement, Profit & Loss Statement By Class & Profit & Loss for the Cynwyd Station. The Historical Society's business account will be moved from Merrill Lynch to Beneficial Bank. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

Capital Campaign Update: An application was filed by Ross and Jerry to the McLean Contributionship for a \$50,000 grant for the Cynwyd Station Revitalization Project.

Database Administration: A *Vertical Response Database Report* was distributed showing the past five months activity along with a list of the most popular links. We continue to add more names to this Data Base.

Education: Ted reported on the list of 29 lectures and events that were held between January and September 2011. Five upcoming events are planned over the fall months.

Library: Ted reported approximately 6,500 photos have been donated to the Historical Society by the family of W. Robert Swartz. A Radnor High School student is helping scan a small portion of this collection which will be listed on the website. Max reported that he has put 6,218 photos of 1,785 buildings on the web with a backlog of 2,853 photos. Karen Hires LM '54 is helping with Bala Cynwyd Junior High and Middle School memorabilia.

Website Report: Over the past 12 months, 165,077 visitors have viewed the *LowerMerionHistory.org* site and 16,195 visitors have viewed the *CynwydHeritageTrail.com* site. Sarah has launched a *Facebook Page* for the Historical Society.

Program: The Historical Society, in conjunction with the Lower Merion Conservancy and The Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd, will present a PowerPoint lecture called *Bala Cynwyd: Then and Now* on December 1st, at the Clearview Bala Theatre (formerly the Egyptian Theatre). The presenters will be Jerry Francis and Lori Salganicoff.

200th Anniversary Celebration: Plans will be developed to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Lower Merion Academy Building in April 2012. John Maki of *Acquire* has given an estimate for a brochure with graphics, history and pictures. It was moved and seconded to produce a brochure and approved unanimously.

Directors and Officers Insurance: Jerry reported that Sam has filled out the application and it was mailed on August 25th to Stillwagon Insurance to be processed.

Lower Merion Street Signs and Keystone Markers: As an update to this issue, Jerry distributed a copy of a September 8th article from the *Main Line Times* entitled *Chance Better To Save Street Signs*. A brief discussion followed.

Bala Cynwyd Corridor: Jerry discussed the issue of the re-zoning of this area. On July 11th a meeting was held with Commissioners Rogan and Manos, representatives from the Township staff, the Lower Merion Conservancy and the Historical Society to discuss the best approach to save the facades of these historic buildings. A recommendation was made for the Township to hire Dominique Hawkins to study this corridor and for her to make a recommendation back to the group. We await Dominique's report and her recommendations.

The Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm

The next Executive Board Meeting is Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 7:30pm at the Lower Merion Academy.

Respectfully Submitted by Bobbie McElroy.