

**Lower Merion Historical Society  
Executive Board Meeting  
November 1, 2016  
The Lower Merion Academy**

**Present:** Jerry Francis, Carole Strickland, Christina Fink, Leon Levine, Perry Hamilton, Max Buten, Ken Brier, Gary Brock, Bruce Gill, Bobbie McElroy

**Excused Absence:** Joanne Murray, Louis Barson, Martha Moffet, Pat Doyle

Jerry Francis called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. Ken Brier led the Pledge Of Allegiance. Jerry gave an update on his cellulitis infection, about 95% healed. Minutes of the June 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting were unanimously approved.

**Reports:** Jerry began with a discussion of the Special Projects list. The adoption of a Township ordinance to list historic objects, such as the milestones, keystone markers and historic street signs, should be approved early next year by the Township's Board of Commissioners. There are between 5,000 and 6,000 street signs to be painted. About 500 have been done so far this year. Ted Goldsborough and Max Buten have photographed many of these signs.

The Historic Resource Inventory Database is being updated. There are so many new highrise buildings going up, that really change the character of the Township, so we must preserve the remaining historic buildings. Initially, there are 15 unlisted properties that should be on the inventory list. Many of the owners of those properties may not be in favor of being listed for historic preservation. Greg Prichard has been hired as the Township's Historic Preservation Planner to work with and to advise HARB and the Historical Commission. A list of current properties, being assessed for preservation or destruction, was discussed.

As a long range plan, we must support the concept of a Lower Merion Preservation Trust and collaborate with the Historical Architectural Review Board and the Historical Commission.

We need a plan to revitalize the Historic Preservation Annual Awards program. We must also remain pro-active in the preservation of all our historic sites.

We are looking at a plan to revitalize *The Lower Merion Society for the Detection and Prosecution of Horse Thieves and Recovery of Stolen Horses*.

Our website needs updates of current projects. For that, we need an IT person.

**Treasurer's Report:** Leon presented the printed report and discussed the current income and expenses in detail. The assets of the LM Horse Company will be turned over to the LM Historical Society. The Historical Society's end of year report should show a fairly even balance of income and expenses. No capitol expenses are expected. Treasurer's report was unanimously accepted.

One unresolved issue remains as to employee status of Jerry Francis which will require further consultation and be a report at the next meeting.

**Financial Review Committee:** Perry Hamilton gave a report of the study that he and Christina Fink have done on the past operation of this Committee. They believe that there are a variety of small projects that are commingled in our current accounting reports, which require study outside the routine of past studies. Some of these projects are the William Penn Inn, preserving original street signs, installing the Philadelphia & Columbia RR marker, preserving the Egyptian Theatre, and managing the preservation of the Cynwyd Station. They therefore recommend that these separate activities and projects have separate financial reports in the financial record. Our accountant, Gary Kay, has no problem with this system, which should make this report more understandable to all Members. This Financial Review report was unanimously approved.

**Database Administration/Newsletter:** Joanne still doing a great job. The September newsletter has been distributed. We have 981 members to date. 958 by email and 23 mailed, with no email address.

**Library:** Due to donations, a number of items have been added to our Library Collection. One recent acquisition is a photo album of Woodmont Mansion that was built in 1895 by Alan Wood, Thanks to Frank Weer for making this donation.

**Website/Facebook/YouTube:** The Website is extremely well used. In the past 12 months there were 204,389 visits.

**Membership:** We need to develop a better package for our Membership program.

**Programs:** The 198<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner of *The Lower Merion Society for the Detection and Prosecution of Horse Thieves and Recovery of Stolen Horses* will be held on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Roy Wolfe, of the Society, is the coordinator. The dinner is an effort to grow the number of members. At the dinner, there will be a ceremony to hand over the official branding iron of the LM Horse Company to the LM Historical Society.

The Merion Meeting community is beginning plans for their Merion Meeting History Festival on May 20, 2017. Bruce Gill has agreed to bring his horse. The job now is to raise money.

**Property Committee:** Last August, a School District's crew thoroughly cleaned and scrubbed the Academy building. This annual project took 2 weeks to complete.

The Cynwyd Station has a 3 year lease with the *Trail's End Café* and has engaged Stuart Campbell as the Caretaker. The property seems to be in good condition.

We thank Ted Goldsborough for his constant scrubbing away of graffiti along the *Cynwyd Heritage Trail*.

Perry Hamilton purchased a video camera for the Society's use. He will record the LM Horse Company dinner. Two members of the First City Troop will be our honored guests and speaker.

**Old Business:** Christine Fink and Jerry are looking into a way to assimilate the Lower Merion Horse Company. Ruth Berman has been contacted about taking on the graphic design project. Jerry will write a history book about the Horse Company. A sub committee will be working on a membership card, member certificates, and other marketing initiatives.

**Renewal of Jerry Francis' Annual Consulting Agreement:** Leon made the motion for Jerry to serve another year as President of the LM Historical Society. Perry moved and Carole seconded a motion to extend Jerry's agreement with the Historical Society under the same existing terms, until our January meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Renewal of J. Bernard Kay & CO. CPA Annual Contract:** Leon discussed the renewal of our contract with Accountant Gary Kay for \$750 a year. It was moved and seconded to renew the contact, which was unanimously passed.

**New Business:** We discussed a request from Justin Bailey from the *Office of the Grand Secretary of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Pennsylvania*, to join their group, which takes care of orphaned children's burials. *The Merion Lodge No. 210* used to do this work, but no longer exists. It was decided to invite Pete Hoskins, of West Laurel Cemetery, to address this question at our January Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara McElroy, Secretary

**Our Next Executive Board Meeting**  
**January 17, 2017**  
**At 7:30 pm at the Academy**