

**Westampton Township  
Timbuctoo Advisory Committee  
First Quarter Meeting  
March 10, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by Guy Weston at 12:00 PM. Attendees were Denita Curry, JoAnn Donnelly, Rev. Thomas Gortman, Sandy Henley, Eric Orange, Machell Still-Pettis, Mary Giles Weston, Guy Weston and Lynda Williams. Four new members joined the committee this year, Guy welcomed everyone and asked that we introduce ourselves.

The committee shall hold at least one regular meeting quarterly. The meeting dates for the remainder of the year are *June 9<sup>th</sup>, September 8<sup>th</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup>*. Conference calls are held monthly or as needed for special projects. Guy will forward the phone # to be used. The committee agreed that Thursday at 6:30 PM is the best time for conference calls.

An election was held for Officers of the Advisory Committee and the following were elected: Guy Weston - Chairperson, Denita Curry - Vice Chairperson, Lynda Williams - Secretary.

The committee reviewed the *Sunshine Law* which requires public bodies to provide the public with:

- . Adequate advance notice of all meetings
- . The right to attend its meeting
- . Reasonable comprehensive minutes of all meetings.

Meeting minutes will be forwarded to the Township Clerk to post on the Township website.

The committee discussed the following Priorities for 2018

- . ***Timbuctoo Day*** - September 22, 2018.
- . ***Interpretive (historical) signs*** – Wesley AME Zion Church will donate the cost of the church/cemetery sign per Rev. Gortman. The committee will purchase 1 large (30x50) upright sign and 3 smaller (24x36) platform signs, the estimated cost for all signs is \$4,500. Guy and Eric will work on and submit order by 4/30/18. The Boy Scout sign is tattered and needs to be refurbished or replaced. It also contains some misleading information, it is a church cemetery not a veteran's cemetery.
- . ***Listing of Timbuctoo on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places***  
25-30 hours of research and writing by Guy Weston and Chris Barton(Archaeologist) is needed to complete the application. The goal is to submit the application materials to the state Historic Preservation Office by 4/30/18.
- . ***Education and Outreach Plan***  
JoAnn Donnelly, Social Studies Teacher at Westampton Middle School, will coordinate planning and implementation for school programs regarding Timbuctoo, its history and heritage. Need a volunteer to coordinate Community Outreach.
- . ***Strategic Plan w/short and long-term goals***  
Need volunteer to coordinate.

Rev. Gortman pointed out that we must have a long-term plan for Timbuctoo that includes financial needs, fundraising, grants, education, museum and community support. There is a house with a garage on Church Street that was being considered for a museum. It is in need of major repairs. Guy will contact Kent Pipes for an inspection of the house and an estimate for repairs. Rev. Gortman, Machell and Sandy will work together on reviewing options for establishing nonprofit status or reviewing options for raising and managing funds.

Artifacts from Timbuctoo's archeological excavation are currently on display at the Rancocas Nature Center, they will remain there until further notice. The rest of the artifacts are being stored in the Township Administrator's office. Lynda asked Eric if storage space could be allocated at the Burlington County Lyceum in Mt. Holly once the renovation is completed (12 banker boxes). Eric will check.

Other topics of discussion:

- . How are we able to receive funds and administer?
- . Can we ask for donations as an advisory committee for the Township?
- . Are funds available from the Township?
- . Traveling display of artifacts
- . Only thing at Timbuctoo site is cemetery, possible museum?
- . Can we apply for grants?
- . Schools being able to do a virtual tour of Timbuctoo
- . In service programs for schools
- . Information is available on each grave in cemetery
- . Can committee be a Trust?

A conference call is scheduled for Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM. Guy will email the phone # for the call.

Respectfully submitted.

Lynda Williams, Secretary