Pipeline Expansions: Balancing the Need for Utilities and the Preservation of Historic Landscapes and Community Character

Currently in Chester County, there are four different pipeline companies vying for real estate to expand their transmission of liquid natural gas; an energy source quite popular in our temperate climate. To get the gas from its source to distribution centers within the County, pipelines need to be installed or increased in size to meet the demand.

However, creating more pipeline right-of-ways or expanding existing right-of-ways means disturbing the countryside that we are so proud to call our home. Hence, the dilemma.

Senator Andrew Dinniman and Representative Curt Schroder have voiced concerns as early as 2009 regarding the impact on our landscape and the need to regulate from a regional perspective. Their concern is for how the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission addresses the county and local residents’ points of view.

The four pipelines requesting expansion and installation in Chester County are AES Mid-Atlantic Express, Keystone Dominion Company, Transcontinental Gas (Williams Transco), and Eastern Shore Natural Gas.

AES Mid-Atlantic Express will traverse 88 miles from Sparrows Point, MD. to Upper Uwchlan Township. The pipeline would go through 13 Townships and the Borough of Downingtown. It is proposed to parallel the existing Columbia Gas pipeline. However, the company is requesting expansion of the existing right-of-way for installation of this proposed pipeline.

Keystone Dominion proposed to build a new pipeline through East Nantmeal, West Pikeland, West Vincent...
and East Whiteland Townships. Due to resident notification to township officials that they were being approached by land agents to secure a right-of-way, the township officials contacted elected officials about the proposed plan and it has since stalled.

Transco has expanded the section of their pipeline called the Downingtown Loop Replacement Project from 30 inch to 42 inch pipe except that which traverses the east branch of the Brandywine Creek. This was a compromise from adding a fourth transmission line to the existing three pipes in this area which would have expanded the right-of-way.

The latest pipeline expansion is for Eastern Shore which will traverse West Sadsbury Township. The Chester County Planning Commission stated that the project is inconsistent with Landscapes2, the county’s comprehensive plan, because of plans to build in agricultural and natural areas.

The Brandywine Conservancy has used similar arguments against the transmission companies proposing to expand.

This is an ardent subject depending on your point of view for the reasons stated earlier; the demand for more fuel versus the preservation of landscapes and historic resources defining Chester County.

The Chester County Historic Preservation Network suggests you become knowledgeable if any of the pipelines are traversing your municipality in two ways:

1. Learn what is happening in your township or borough and voice your opinion regarding the proposed plans.

2. Become involved with the Historic Preservation project review already in place. Known as the Section 106 Review, the procedure provides ample citizen participation opportunities during the entire review. YOU WILL BE HEARD! Procedure details can be found on the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's website. For more information, each Historical Commission should call your Network Municipal Services Coordinator who can guide you or contact the Chester County Historic Preservation Network 877-442-2476.

   - Steven M. Brown, AIA
   CCHPN Board

Save the Date!

The Network's Education and Program Committee announces:

The annual CCHPN Spring 2011 Workshop is scheduled for

March 12, 2011

Topic: The Section 106 Review

its procedure and your role regarding federally funded or permitted projects in the county, including gas pipelines, nuclear power station permits, roads, bridges, cell towers, et cetera.

We hope you can join us!
Preservation is an inherently sustainable undertaking and one of the key activities that makes it so is a maintenance plan. Whether a single family home or a complete campus, the key components of a maintenance plan are similar. The presentation will provide guidance for setting up a plan using examples from projects and sites of different sizes and uses. There will be references to green construction and sustainability, but the real focus is on a good conditions assessment and a methodology for converting that to an action plan for the continued health of the historic resource.

This program is a follow-up to the CCHPN Spring 2010 Workshop on Green Preservation.
A Celebration of Note

On June twenty-third of this summer, there was a loud mixture of sounds, as when the orchestra is tuning up for a concert. For the non-listening ear the appreciation of all the notes and tunes were not so melodic and perhaps, equal to nothing more than noise. To the discerning ear, the air was full to capacity of joyful sounds of the voices of friends and members of the historic preservation family joining in the annual Chester County Historical Preservation Network Volunteer Recognition Celebration. What a wonderful gathering of colleagues to honor those who have given extensively in time, tenacity, tested and true spirit, trials conquered, mediated and lost, thus, resulting in establishing role models that prevail in the continuing efforts to preserve America in Chester County. Joining us this year, as our primary Sponsor, was the Stewart Huston Charitable Trust to whom we are most grateful for their faith and belief in CCHPN members and historic preservation in our communities.

Thank you’s are often a closing paragraph, yet in this instant the Thank You comes first for the CCHPN Individual and Municipality Awardees. This was demonstrated through Citations from our ever alert and caring Chester County Commissioners presented by Commissioners Terence Farrell and Kathi Cozzone; the appreciation and recognition of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives by the Honorable Tim Hennessey, and another Citation complementing Awardees was presented by the Honorable Andy Dinniman for himself and State Senator John C. Rafferty from the State Senate.

The CCHPN Individual Awards were given to Estelle Cremers of Warwick Township and Gene DiOrio of The Greystone Society, by CCHPN Founder, Jane L.S. Davidson, Board member. The summary of Estelle’s life, who delved deep into the history in Chester County; dedication to research and development of the arena of historic truth was extensive. Many of us have learned and referred to Estelle’s publications many times. Gene DiOrio
prevailed in preserving the history of Luken’s Steel, through documentation and saving physical structures that tell the history of that industry now known as The Graystone Society. He too has published a book. Each Awardee merit separate individual life story telling time.

The 2010 CCHPN Municipal Historic Preservation Award was presented to New Garden Township, particularly the Historical Commission, for the in-depth work they did to preserve the historic integrity of the Landenberg Bridge and the building of local support to champion the bridge.

Grace Under Fire Awards went to the East Bradford Historical Commission for the Darlington Seminary/Ingram House & Barn project, The Mill at Anselma’s Jennifer Green for her leadership as Acting Executive Director, and the Wallace Township Historical Commission for the Springton Road Bridge project. These awards acknowledge our historical organizations who have dedicated time and energy to projects which were unusually demanding of time and energy. Awards are artfully designed and hand scribed by Artist and CCHPN Board Member, Ann Bedrick.

A Big First for CCHPN was put into place when we acknowledged the perfect attendance to our Volunteer Recognition Celebrations by the Honorable Andy Dinniman. A Honorary Life Membership was extended by past CCHPN Board member, Don Hannum, as he profiled this very special man and friend of preserving the heritage of Chester County.

This year, Uwchlan Township was honored for completing the Chester County Historical Resource Atlas. Karen Marshall, Chester County Heritage Coordinator, along with John Mikowychok, Director of Chester County Parks and Recreation extended their congratulations.

The facilitation of the evening was smoothly executed by Master of Ceremonies, Acting President of CCHPN, Bruce Knapp. Situated on the lovely estate of Welkinweir, a brief welcome was made by its Director, Victoria Laubach. Along with Welkinweir, East Nantmeal Historical Commission Chair, Kristine Gordon-Watson, along with other commission members were our hosts for the event. The strikingly elegant bouquets of flowers, arranged by this group plus Lynn Coine of East Coventry Township Historical Commission, made the foyer and dinner tables blend with the stately surroundings.

The cheery voice of Kathryn Yahraes, member of the CCHPN Board and many of its committees, made the Roll Call for all attending Historic Commissions and HARBs. Each group identified their successes and projects of the past year. Energy and enthusiasm ran swiftly and pleasantly through the crowd of over one hundred people.

For those who were unable to tour the historic Estate House and Gardens of Welkinweir at the beginning of the evening, you are welcome to return and yes, to become a member of Green Valleys Association which is housed there.

To end the evening that pushed into the hours of darkness, the CCHPN Board as reflected by Education & Program Committee Chair, Elaine Husted, extended the best to all as the progress continues at measurable levels, small and large, to assure that history in Chester County is real for all ages over time to appreciate.

- Elaine Husted, Ph.D
CCHPN Board

The CCHPN Traveling Roadshow will arrive in Oxford!

Once again our Sears Kit House Presentation will be given on September 16 at 7pm Ware Presbyterian Home 7 E. Locust St., Oxford, PA

Presented by Jane L. S. Davidson and Bruce Knapp See you there!
COATESVILLE REMEMBERS...

World Trade Center Commemoration Ceremony

Saturday, September 11, 2010, 7:30 AM

The Graystone Society will honor those lost on September 11, 2001 with a ceremony in Coatesville's Gateway Park.

7:30 A.M. TO 10:30 A.M.

The ceremony will be punctuated by a bell rung to commemorate significant times on that historic morning of September 11, 2001. Local school children will be selected to ring the bell. County, State and Federal politicians are expected to attend. Law enforcement, fire fighters, school children, civic groups and civilians are invited to join the Graystone Society. Also expected are The Lukens Band, as well as local choirs and singers.

♦ The Graystone Society is the trustee of the largest collection of 9/11 relics outside of New York City.
♦ A select group of the massive World Trade Center steel "trees" will be on display to give attendees an opportunity to "connect with 9/11 history."

Refreshments will be served. The event will be held rain or shine.

Admission is Free
For information call 610-384-9282

Presenting Sponsors

ArcelorMittal
Citadel
Huston Foundation

Supporting Sponsor

MCSBank

Partners

Huston Properties, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Scott G. Huston
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
Peco
Rainer & Company
Stewart Huston Charitable Trust

Friends

BrandywineRadio.com
City Construction
DNB First
Kelly Caffrees
The Williams Group
A Letter to Us Regarding the Schuylkill School

Dear Friends:

I want to tell you that we have lost a 9 year struggle to save and preserve the historic Schuylkill School in Schuylkill Township. The Phoenixville Area School District asked for a waiver of the historic ordinance procedure for demo application and the Board of Supervisors approved the waiver bypassing our Historical Commission. Need-to-say, we are not pleased.

The Supervisors said that we did not have a critical mass of people wanting to save the school, the granting possibilities were poor due to the economic conditions today, and they couldn't commit taxpayers dollars for a lawsuit with the district as the same taxpayers would be footing the bill on both sides of the bench. They said the issue has continued long enough and wanted to end it.

Of course, the building has been deteriorating daily due to lack of care from the district. The township had sent letters asking for repairs to the building and to stop the "demolition by neglect" which the district never responded to. It is a long saga and sad tale of losing such a great building.

I have been in touch with PHMC and many of the people in Harrisburg who have been supportive and provided consultation. I don't know that this made any difference. The school was on the historic resource list as a Class I resource in the township and had the Designation of Eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

It has been a long 9 years, but I just did not think this would happen.

Sandy Momyer
Friends of Schuylkill School
Chair, Historical Commission, Schuylkill Township
Please come and join us for our

Fall 2010 Presentation:

Maintaining Your Historic Building

West Whiteland Twp
Municipal Bldg
Exton, PA

Oct. 7, 2010, 7pm

Details Inside!

Please Forward

Chester County Ledger
The Newsletter of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network

Inside this issue:
Pipeline Expansions: Balancing the Need for Utilities and the Preservation of Historic Landscapes and Community Character

Steven M. Brown, AIA

“James B. Garrison, AIA, Fall 2010 Presenter

Biography

James B. Garrison, AIA

A Celebration of Note

Elaine Husted, PhD

A Letter To Us Regarding the Schuylkill School

Sandy Momyer

Matthew E. Roberson
Restoration Carpentry

610-620-4656 meroberson@gmail.com

www.meroberson.com

Board Member: CCHPN & Historic Yellow Springs, Inc.

The CCHPN requests your organization’s events for posting on our website. Please send your list to Matthew Roberson, editor of The Ledger, at meroberson@gmail.com and I will put it on www.cchpn.org

Thanks!