

## Sharpsburg Historical Commission Meeting 01/05/22

Held via Zoom

In attendance: Joseph Bruno (treasurer), Jocelyn Codner (clerk), Lou Deluca, Mary Louise Green, Melanie Linn Gutowski (vice chair), Kayla Portis, David Rotenstein (chair), Leo Rudzki, Matthew V. Rudzki

- Church National Register nomination update
  - The Parish has asked David to wait until after the holidays to set up a phone call, which David will attempt to do next week
- Collaboration with the Sharpsburg Public Library on an in-library exhibit
  - David and Jocelyn met with Pamela Bruno and Sara Mariacher (Branch Manager) about an in-library exhibit and additional programming
  - It was the consensus that we'd all like to meet at the Borough building to look at the items that we have
    - Most of what we have are 2D objects, scans of images, etc.
    - We will aim to schedule this meeting for February
  - This could potentially serve as a fundraiser
  - We could potentially sell prints of images
  - The library is also interested in doing a program in February for Black History Month
    - Pam spoke with Kayla about this
    - We can focus on the Smith family and the Mt. Olive Baptist Church first and let people know that if they have stories they want to share in the future we can continue on with this series of uplifting the stories and voices of Sharpsburg's Black families
    - This can include images, newspaper articles, and short stories/anecdotes that can be printed
    - Kayla will move forward with coordinating this with Sara and Pam
- Oral history project
  - In the future when it's safer we can get together to go over options for this project, like deciding which kinds of equipment to purchase etc.
  - Still not a great time to move forward with interviews due to the nature of the project and the risks COVID brings
  - We can think about people and families and stories that we'd like to make sure we interview/record
  - David will start a shared folder for us with examples of forms and interview schedules and other documents that are standard for oral history projects
  - We could also explore conducting some interviews via Zoom for folks who want to record their stories sooner rather than later, especially for folks who might be in poor health
- Donation offer of a directory from 1904-05 including Sharpsburg and the surrounding boroughs, they include names, addresses, occupations, and for some folks their race
  - This book was printed by the Herald Printing Company, which was located in the building behind the statue of Guyasuta

- If we can get a picture of the cover and the title page that can give us more identifying information then we can look to see if Heinz already has it
  - If Heinz already has it and has it digitized and accessible, then it's not necessary for us to acquire
  - If Heinz does not have it, we'd be interested
  - If it has images or etchings of local landmarks, we could take it to scan and share those
- Jocelyn will respond and ask some additional questions
- Exhibit cases/furniture for Borough building
  - We confirmed the price but still need to confirm pick-up date, will need to check to see if it's still available
  - We've since learned that one of the panes\* of glass has a small crack in one of the cases
    - This might add more cost for us to replace that glass
  - Commission has decided to wait to see if something else more appropriate turns up