



**General
Membership
Meeting**

*Monday,
May 15, 2006
7:30 PM*

at the 1895 Schoolhouse



**April Meeting
Program:**

*Our Members' Share
Open Forum of
Interesting Facts
and "Show and Tell"
by our Members*



**Hospitality
POT-LUCK
Hospitality**



**Wissahickon
Valley Historical
Society**

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From the Desk of the President:

Greetings, I hope this letter finds you well. I wish to begin this newsletter by thanking Bill Missfeldt for doing an excellent job chairing our April meeting during my absence (I was away on holiday), but alas back to reality!

I am pleased to see our meeting attendance is up as the weather improves. We strive to present informative programs to our membership.

Our May meeting program is "***Our Members Share***" ... we invite our members to speak on a variety of topics, including collections, books, other affiliations or general interests. It should be a very interesting program so please plan on joining us.

We have a few members who we haven't seen lately who I'd like to acknowledge. Bob Virkler, who has served as our able librarian for many years is recovering from health issues. Bob has been and continues to be very active; he has served on our Executive Board and is always there to volunteer whenever asked upon. We miss you, Bob, and wish you a speedy recovery.

Ginny Sinn, one of our founding members, has served in many capacities over the years. We miss seeing your smiling face. Ginny's husband, John, is suffering from health issues and Ginny is at his side. John, we wish you well and Ginny we hope you can join us soon, we miss you.

Our Flea Market committee is set and ready to meet to begin planning our big Fall Market event. The committee will meet in May and lay out their strategies. Our plan is that this year's Flea Market will be our biggest ever – especially after such a great event this past season.

We also have a Program Committee set to plan our programs for the upcoming season. This committee will meet in early June and work through the summer.

My thanks go out to all our members who volunteer in any way to make our Society better.

Sincerely,
Frank J. Russo, Jr., Acting President

Historic Preservation News ...

WYNDHAM HOTEL, AMBLER

The Wyndham Hotel, built by John Cooper, has stood majestically, overlooking Butler Avenue since 1893. Over the last century, it has had its ups and downs. Unfortunately, more downs than ups.

The hotel has a new owner and will undergo and major restoration beginning this summer. After renovations are complete, the hotel will become a jewel in the crown of Ambler.

Plans for this historic building call for a restaurant to locate on the first floor and the upstairs will be renovated into office space.



AMBLER BRIDGE OVER THE WISSAHICKON

The Wissahickon Bridge on Butler Avenue has undergone a restoration. The bridge has deteriorated over the last 70 years and just recently has been restored. New sidewalks, repair to the obelisks, and new lighting now make this an attractive entrance into Ambler.

GWYNEDD HOUSE ON THE MOVE

Foulkeways recently purchased a house built in 1817, which perched precariously over Rt. 202. The house was moved several hundred feet back from the existing Route 202 to make way for the proposed widening of the roadway. Plans are that the restored house will be leased as a post office.

What a creative re-use to a wonderful historic building!

May 2006 – General Meeting “Our Members Share”

We invite our members to speak on a variety of topics, including collections, books, other affiliations or general interests including the world's largest china company “The Homer Laughlin China Co., Newell, WV”, 19th Century toys, a book report, and rocks and gems from our area – just to name a few.

WVHS Summer Picnic *Secret Location* Has Been Announced!

You are cordially invited to join us for our Annual June Picnic, Monday, June 12, at 5:30 pm at the home residence of our members Bob and Gloria Myers. (*No, it's not a secret ... we just wanted to make sure you were paying attention!*) This event is a covered dish supper, with no additional costs.

All we ask is for those attending to bring a covered dish and yourself. We need main courses, side casseroles, appetizers, and desserts. Your families are welcome.

We again wish to thank Bob and Gloria for opening up their home and hosting this event. They are always gracious hosts.

If you haven't already signed up and wish to attend and bring along your specialty covered dish, please contact Marie Russo at 215-616-2661. See you there!



... Or Not (?)

AMBLER APPROVES PRELIMINARY CONDO PLAN

04/19/2006 — By: Nick Norlen, Ambler Gazette Staff Writer

Construction of Westrum Development's proposed six-building condominium complex inched closer Monday night as Ambler Borough Council unanimously voted to approve preliminary plans for the project.

Approval of the plans, which call for 288 condo units to surround the borough's "power house" building, came with the notation of being "under the conditions outlined by Gilmore and Associates and the Montgomery County Planning Commission." Gilmore and Associates is the borough's engineering consultant.

Michael Narcowich, a community planner who represents the MCPC, said the conditions apply primarily to pedestrians and infrastructure.

"We want to ensure the development is closely tied to the train station in the heart of downtown Ambler. That means ensuring that the connection between the development and the train station has adequate sidewalk repairs and widening done ahead of time," he said. "Also, site amenities such as bike racks and trash receptacles should be provided."

In a letter sent to borough and Westrum officials after the MCPC's review of the land development plans, Narcowich states that the MCPC recommended "approval of the proposed land development provided that all issues are addressed to the satisfaction of the borough."

The letter lists other conditions related to aspects such as parking and building design, and notes that the municipality has the last say in approving any plans for development.

After the meeting, council President Anita Pieri said she is excited to see the project moving ahead. She admitted surprise at the fact that there has been virtually no public comment regarding the project, considering the controversy surrounding the 17-story high-rise proposed by Kane Core last year.

Although she said she wasn't certain, Pieri attributed the difference in public reception of the two proposals to the fact that the Westrum plan does not include a high-rise, and her belief that a majority of the opponents of the Kane Core plan were Whitpain residents. Pieri said she anticipates that the process will continue smoothly.

"I sure hope so. It looks that way. Because now they're in land development, so the big hurdles - all the big obstacles - are kind of out of the way," she said.

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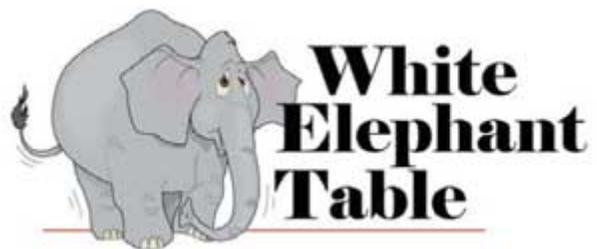
WVHS Plans for 2006 Fall Flea Market

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for **Saturday, October 14, 2006**, for the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society's Fall Flea Market.

The vendors are calling and we're calling all members to start their spring cleaning early for our Fall Flea Market event! The planning committee will be meeting in May to layout the groundwork for another great flea market (and I think they're planning for good weather, again, too!).

Josephine Sawicki will be organizing the White Elephant sale — after running such a successful table last year she's up for the challenge to top her sales this year. She is asking

for you to start looking in your closets and attics for any unwanted "wares" that could be donated and sold at the Flea Market to benefit the WVHS.





Wissahickon Valley Historical Society Calendar of Events ~ May 2006 and upcoming events!

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE from our regularly scheduled meeting!

- Mon., May 15 **General Business Meeting** **7:30 PM**
“Our Members Share” – An open meeting to share our collections or interests
- Mon., May 22 *Board Meeting* *7:00 PM*
- Mon., June 12 **WVHS Members’ Summer Picnic** **6:00 PM**
(At the Myers’ home in Ft. Washington ... covered dish event)

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: <http://www.angelfire.com/pa5/wvhs>
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