

Friends--

More media coverage

Friday's Philadelphia Inquirer featured an Op Ed with the headline ***Don't let developers degrade this historic Underground Railroad stop (click)***. We are grateful for the paper's interest in our cause and hope this well-placed commentary will broaden our base of support. Abolition Hall is a national treasure, but K. Hovnanian Builders still hasn't figured that out.

And, in case you missed them, the *Times Herald* ran two articles on Sunday, April 15

Local Advocacy Group Continues Years-Long Effort to Preserve Abolition Hall (click)
Another key issues: Suspected significant wetland (click)

Hearing update

At Thursday evening's hearing (4/26), the developer's attorney brought two more expert witnesses to the mic--an architect who testified to the merits of the townhouse community's design but admitted that he lacked expertise in historic architecture, and a traffic engineer who explained that the intersection of Butler and Germantown Pikes is already classified as "failing," and therefore will not be made any worse by the addition of the estimated 37 vehicular trips generated by the 67 townhouses. The audience made it clear that the day-to-day experience of navigating this intersection tells us far more than any costly traffic impact study. Our attorney quite effectively cross examined these witnesses.

We were pleased to see State Senator Vincent Hughes fill a seat, and appreciative of the fact that he listened intently until the hearing ended.

Next hearing

As expected, the Board of Supervisors recessed the hearing portion of their meeting at around 9:30.

The hearing will be continued on Thursday, May 24, 7 p.m.

Based on the resumes included in the developer's Exhibits booklet, we believe he has yet to present one additional witness--a land planning/zoning expert.

The Friends of Abolition Hall has an equal number of witnesses, and these experts will begin their testimony at the next hearing. Additionally, we will testify (we were granted party status back in March), as will nearby neighbors who have been granted party status.

The Township Solicitor announced that public comments will be taken at the end of the hearing. We hope you will step to the mic with your message for our Supervisors. It is they who will decide on the developer's application for Conditional Use. The Zoning Code states that townhouses can only be built on this site with the approval of the Board of Supervisors.

Please donate!

We need your help to pay for legal counsel. Developers include a line item for legal costs in their project budgets. We are merely a grassroots group--concerned citizens fighting to protect this precious site. Please donate to our fund, which is being managed by Preservation Pennsylvania, an IRS-approved nonprofit.

Support the fight to save the legacy of Abolition Hall!

**** DONATE HERE ****

Abolition Hall deserve better!

Sydelle Zove, Convener
Friends of Abolition Hall
April 28, 2018