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Springfield Township Historical Commission

May 2, 2023

MINUTES OF MEETING OF REGULAR MEETING

HC-31

Meeting held in the Conference Room at Springfield Township Building 1510 Paper Mill Road, Wyndmoor, PA 19038

NOTICE: The Historical Commission of Springfield Township is an advisory board appointed by the Board of Commissioners. The actions of the Historical Commission on any agenda items does not reflect a final decision. The Board of Commissioners must render the final decision on any agenda items

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name:

Name:

Baird Standish	Commission Liaison	Heather Snyder-Killinger	Commission Member
David Sands	Commission Vice Chair	Joseph Devine	Commission Member
Al Comly	Commission Secretary	Mark Penecale	Staff Liaison

Not present: Matthew Harris (also 1 vacancy remains for alternate)

Guests: Chris Weth

- 1) **Call by Order by the Chairperson** **Called to order at 6:06 PM by Vice Chair David Sands. Roll was taken and absentees noted.**
- 2) **Approval of Minutes** **Meeting HC-30 (April 4, 2023) Motion Mr. Devine seconded by Ms. Killinger. Approved on voice vote.**
- 3) **Update by Board of Commissioners' Liaison:** **Commissioner Standish reported that no interviews had taken place to fill the HC board vacancy.**

4) **Review of Agenda**

Mr. Penecale reported that there were no changes in status relative to Knipe (Willow Grove Ave) or Wild (Manor Road).

5) **Discussion Items and Appropriate Action (“Previous Business” and “New Business” in earlier minutes).**

HC-30.1 General agreement of role of Historic Commission relative to the ordinance:

- **Obligation to be stewards of buildings of significance in the Township**
- **Educate about the ordinance and its benefits**
- **Focus on the ordinance—making adjustments to optimize the stewardship of significant structures in the Township.**

May 2, 2023 Update: Discussion continued regarding the “Inventory” and what that means and what information would be part of any structure identified as significant. PHMC forms or National Register forms were noted, but how much information is required initially remains unanswered. This conversation then comes back to the discussion of hiring a consultant to develop the raw inventory for our use. Ms. Killinger has an intern in her office who would help with some of the raw data review—but this is short term (until the end of the month). HC will try to make good use of Ms. Killinger’s generous offer.

HC-30.2 List Ms. Killinger had distributed the list prepared by the Springfield Township Historical Society—dated September 2000. Discussion focused on starting with this list and editing/ amending it to create a list of significant structures in the Township. This would also serve as a possible scope document for a third party to develop an initial Township inventory.

May 2, 2023 Update: The discussion led to agreement that the list is the starting point for what the HC wishes to accomplish, noting that the Historical Society’s list is really a summary of inquiries regarding properties in the Township and does not represent the application of standard of significance to these properties. It is more anecdotal than anything else. The path forward will be clarified as the list/ inventory is clarified.

HC-29.1 The majority of the meeting as a discussion of next steps, focusing on a memo generated by Mr. Comly prior to the meeting (copy attached). See Item 26.1 for update. This item will be the primary discussion item in defining the Commission’s role and objectives.

April 4, 2023 Update: It was noted that the benefits of the ordinance generally apply to residential properties, Commercial zoning generally allow most of the benefits offered in the ordinance.

May 2, 2023 Update: No additional discussion. Will be considered as development of potential ordinance revisions occurs.

HC-28.2 Mr Penecale had drafted and circulated the letter to the Commissioners regarding the implementation of an initial list. It was reported by Commissioner Ratsavong that this has not been addressed as yet by the Commissioners.

March 7, 2023 Update: Nothing to report

April 4, 2023 Update: Nothing to report—no response on letter regarding Block Horse and Flourtown Country Club.

May 2, 2023 Update: Nothing to report. Item will be closed. Focus will be the “inventory” for the HC use rather than the “Official Township List”.

- 6) **Citizen Comments** *None*
- 7) **Assignment of Member Action Items**
 - **Copy of available listing of properties 1940 and older—Mr. Penecale**
- 8) **Agenda for next meeting** *All new agenda items shall be forwarded to Mr. Penecale at least one week prior to scheduled meeting date*
- 9) **Adjournment** Adjournment at 7:02 PM. Next meeting will be **June 6, 2023** at 6 PM to continue the discussion on the best means to move forward.

Respectfully Submitted

Albert M. Comly, Jr., AIA
Secretary

