



Springfield Township Historical Commission

August 15, 2023

MINUTES OF MEETING OF REGULAR MEETING

HC-33

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
Matthew Harris	Commission Chair	Joseph Devine	Commission Member
David Sands	Commission Vice Chair		
Al Comly	Commission Secretary	Mark Penecale	Staff Liaison

Not present: (1 vacancy remains for alternate)

Guests: None

- 1) **Call by Order by the Chairperson** **Called to order at 6:02 PM by Chair Matthew Harris. Roll was taken and absentees noted.**

- 2) **Approval of Minutes** **Meeting HC-31 (May 2, 2023) Motion by M. Harris, second by D. Sands approved with Harris abstaining**
 Meeting HC-32 (July 18, 2023) Motion by M. Harris, second by D. Sands approved.

- 3) **Update by Board of Commissioners' Liaison:** Commissioner Standish reported that the Board of Commissioners received the letter regarding the Stotesbury statuary as discussed at the previous Historical Commission meeting. The Commissioners also received a proposal for the cleaning and any needed repairs from Scott Kreilick's firm. The Commissioners have placed the money for the cleaning/ repair in the budget for 2024—noting that this was for the fountain only, since that is the statue that is solely the responsibility of the Township. The other statue is on private property.
- 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-33.1 The Commission discussed the best path forward—noting the items that have been recorded in HC-30.1 and HC-30.2 below. Summary points from the discussion are:

- Discussion of ordinance changes will not prove effective at the current time
- The inventory task is greater than can be performed by the Commission. Engaging a qualified firm to develop a list, that will be informal at this time,
- Scope of work for a consultant has been discussed in the past—Commission will return to that effort to get the progress started. Issues such as the variety of existing lists, their accuracy, level of survey (ie desk top, windshield survey, evaluation of properties to prioritize), and what information will be needed will be discussed on the basis of the initial budget request.
- It was agreed to request \$25,000 for the 2024 budget year. The final consultant scope will be tailored to the final budget allocation.
- The Commission agreed that a report of the Commission's activities should be prepared and forwarded to the Board of Commissioners. This report should be available for November when the BOC reviews the budget requests. Mr. Comly will prepare a draft for review at the next Commission meeting.

HC-32.1 Discussion of the Statuary from the Stotesbury property now at the island at Claridge and Widener Roads. Mr Hagy noted that he has been concerned about the condition of these pieces. His investigation had shown that the Township owned the fountain (in the island) while the other piece as a shared arrangement between the property owner and the Township. It was also noted that former Historical Commission member Scott Kreilick had done a report on these items. The report will be forwarded to the HC members. *MOTION by Matthew Harris, second by David Sands to forward a petition from the Historic Commission to Township staff recommending that this statuary be professionally cleaned, be prepared and sent.*

August 15, 2023 Update: Letter was written and the Commissioners have budgeted the work in the 2024 township budget (item closed)

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.

July 18, 2023 Update: The Commission again thanked Ms. Killinger for the work done by the previously noted intern, James Glomb. It will form a good starting point for our list. A thank you letter has been sent to Mr. Glomb to express the Commission’s appreciation for his work.

August 15, 2023 List has been assembled and will be incorporated in the scope discussion noted in item HC-33.1. (This item will be closed)

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.

July 18, 2023 Update: The list prepared by Mr. Glomb and Ms. Killinger has been circulated. Discussion focused on the next steps. Ms. Killinger offered the following summary:

- 1 The Montgomery County information contains inaccuracies
- 2 A cut-off date should be established as part of the starting point, but we must also consider other significant buildings or districts that are more current

- 3 Consultant is needed to
 - a. Vet properties
 - b. Determine if districts should be delineated
 - c. Create a format/ template for use with filing and recording
- 4 Consider history of the township that precedes the colonial period

Based on that discussion, it is clear the Commission is at a decision point, particularly regarding:

- 1 Retention of a consultant—must clarify budget and process forward. To gain funding in the 2024 budget year, cost information must be available by September 15, 2023. As part of this cost, consider a budget to include the information in the Township GIS Tracer program.
- 2 Recognize that the existing information we have is just a resource, but not “perfect”
- 3 Consider how this document (the list or the files) will be handled, stored, administered and updated.
- 4 Update our goals, focusing on the following:
 - a. Forwarding the list to the Commissioners
 - b. Possibly preparing a mailer for the listed properties

August 15, 2023 Update List has been assembled and will be incorporated in the scope discussion noted in item HC-33.1. (This item will be closed)

6) Citizen Comments

None

7) Assignment of Member Action Items

- **Prepare draft report for presentation to the BOC in November.—Al Comly**

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 on Motion by Matthew Harris, second by Joseph Devine. Next scheduled meeting is September 5, 2023 at 6 PM .

Respectfully Submitted

Albert M. Comly, Jr., AIA
Secretary