



Springfield Township Historical Commission

July 18, 2023

MINUTES OF MEETING OF REGULAR MEETING

HC-32

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: Bruce Hagy, 8604 Hull drive, Wyndmoor

- 1) **Call by Order by the Chairperson** **Called to order at 6:05 PM by Chair Matthew Harris. Roll was taken and absentees noted.**
- 2) **Approval of Minutes** **Meeting HC-31 (May 2, 2023) Distributed—no action taken**
- 3) **Update by Board of Commissioners' Liaison:** **Commissioner Standish reported that the Board of Commissioners were moving forward with obtaining a portion of the Haws Land site as open space. In an agreement with the developer,**

the proposal for 16 Townhouse Units to be constructed on the front of the site will be submitted for review as a land development application. In addition, the Board of Commissioners will explore a ban on single use plastic bags again.

4) Review of Agenda

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

Mr. Bruce Hagy of Hull Drive joined the meeting regarding the statuary at Claridge and Widener Roads.

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

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.*

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.

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**

6) Citizen Comments

The Commission thanked Mr. Hagy for taking the time to attend our meeting and follow-up on his concerns regarding the statuary—hoping that we can now aid in some progress to mitigate some of the frustration of previous inactivity on these iconic pieces.

7) **Assignment of Member Action Items**

- **Prepare draft request to the Township administration regarding the cleaning of the statues—Mark Penecale**
- **Gather costs that would be placed in a request to the Township for 2024 funding—all**

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 7:15 PM. Next scheduled meeting is August 2, 2023 at 6 PM . There is a conflict with the National Night-Out program so a new date will need to be scheduled (**Ultimately August 15, 2023 at 6PM was selected.**)

Respectfully Submitted

Albert M. Comly, Jr., AIA
Secretary