



Springfield Township Historical Commission

December 6, 2022

MINUTES OF MEETING OF REGULAR MEETING

HC-26

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:

Scott Kreilick	Commission Chair	Heather Snyder-Killinger	Commission Member
Matthew Harris	Commission Vice Chair	Joseph Devine	Commission Member
Al Comly	Commission Secretary	Mark Penecale	Staff Liaison

Not in Attendance: David Sands, Baird Standish

Guests: None

- 1) **Call by Order by the Chairperson** **Called to order at 6:11 PM by Chair Scott Kreilick. Roll was taken and absentees noted.**
 - **Chairman Kreilick also announced that this would be his last meeting. His work requires his time and he has decided to not request re-appointment to the Commission. The Commission thanked Scott for his work and efforts on behalf of the Commission and the Township.**
 - **It was also noted that reorganization will take place in January, after the Commission appointments are updated.**

- 2) **Approval of Minutes** Meeting HC-25 (September 6, 2022) approved—Motion Matthew Harris, second Heather Killinger. There was no meeting in November due to the conflict with Election Day. October’s meeting was a tour of the Knipe residence in Wyndmoor. No minutes were prepared for that tour.
- 3) **Update by Board of Commissioners’ Liaison:** Commissioner Standish was unable to attend the meeting. Mr Penecale offered the following for information:
 - Mr Penecale noted that the 2023 meeting schedule of dates contains two possible conflicts—July 4 and November 7. No action is required at this time as these issues will be addressed closer to the dates involved.
- 4) **Review of Agenda**

Ms Killinger had circulated a list of possible agenda additions—Publication of an initial “Township List”; and reporting on the “1999 Historic Resource Comprehensive Survey” and the relationship to the list prepared by Springfield Township Historical Society.
- 5) **Discussion Items and Appropriate Action (“Previous Business” and “New Business” in earlier minutes).**

HC-26.1 The Commission renewed its discussion of the path forward for the Commission and the preparation of a list of Historic Properties in the Township. Summary points of that discussion included:

- The Township Comprehensive Plan included 28 properties of historic significance to the Township. Previously, these properties had been presented as a list for protection in the township, but the process was informally rejected by the Township Commissioners, noting that several are already owned by the Township and 2 are already on the National Register of Historic Places. The Commission requested that Mr. Penecale draft a letter to the Board of Commissioners to again request that these properties noted in the Comprehensive Plan be recognized as the initial township list of protected properties.
- The Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) is currently being reviewed (last done in the 1990s). It might be possible to include Historic Commission review in the SALDO process as part of the review and comment process for the Planning Commission. This is already done for first responders (STEMS) and Shade Tree Commission.
- The matter of Conservation Easements was discussed. The Chestnut Hill Conservancy does assist owners with easements, including some in Springfield Township. There is no capability in the Township to do Conservation Easements.
- Formalize a process to accept properties for the township list. The PHMC (Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission) might provide some excellent guidance in this regard.

HC-25.1 The Knipe's presented their property at 1001 Willow Grove Ave. The property is 100 x 200 in the middle of the commercial area in Wyndmoor. The house was built ca 1870. Mrs. Knipe stated that she has been in the residence since 1939. The Knipes are interesting if protecting the property from future development.

The commission provided a summary of the Historic Ordinance and the intentions of the Commission. Listing on the Township list is currently by owner's request only. It was suggested that the next step was for the Knipes to send a letter to the Commission stating their intention to have the property placed on the Township list and protect it from development. This would trigger a review by the Commission. A site visit was recommended and will be scheduled in the near future.

Update 12/6/2022 The Commission discussed the process forward for the Knipe property. After some discussion, it was agreed to communicate with the Knipe family, requesting the following:

- **A formal request from the Knipe family to enter the process with the Township. Mr. Penecale will draft that request and work with the Knipe's in this regard.**
- **Forward a copy of the current ordinance to the Knipe's. Mr' Penecale will include this in his communication with the Knipe's**

HC-24.1 Members of the Historical Commission met on June 30 for a workshop to discuss how the work of the Commission might best proceed. At the meeting Commission members discussed how some key discussion items (many noted in item HC-23.1):

A The consensus is toward the need of a "shadow list" of important structures, so something that can be used as an indication that a structure may need to be evaluated for its historical importance.

B The current ordinance does not have any "teeth"—meaning the ability to "protect" a structure thought to be important. The Commission will need to review the Ordinance and compose some suggested recommendations.

C Look at the building permit process to see how best to incorporate the historical review when appropriate. Mr. Penecale briefly summarized the various permits/ approvals associated with building in the township:

- Demolition permit—cap off certification, asbestos clearance, dumpster, safety plan
- Building Permit
- Subdivision & Land Development Application
- Zoning Hearing Board (for waivers, special exceptions, variances)

September 6 Update: No additional discussion
December 6, Update: This discussion will be absorbed into item HC-26.1

HC-22.1 Mr Penecale introduced Mary and Michael Harkins. They reside at 1799 Willow Grove Ave in the Laverock area of the Township. Discussion noted the following:

The Harkins had attended one of the ZOOM sessions in 2021

They are investigating their options so far as the Ordinance is concerned. The original portion of the house dates to 1707. They intend to stay in the house and expect it to remain in its current condition (noting the overlaying A Residential zoning for the property)

The Opt-in/ Opt-out aspect of the Ordinance was discussed—noting that the real goal was to retain properties of significance in their context. Offering other uses in the Ordinance was intended to support that goal.

The Harkins asked about other available information regarding the property. It was suggested they contact the Springfield Township Historical Society in Flourtown to see what was available in their records. They also were interested in providing anecdotal information they had and did not want to see lost.

The question of “what next” was not answered, but left with the Harkins to consider. The Commission is happy to assist them in their deliberations.

June 7 Update: Nothing further from Harkins. Unknown if they contacted the Historical Society regarding their project.

July 5 Update: Nothing further to report.

September 6 Update: Nothing further to report

December 6 Update: Nothing further to report

HC-21.2 A discussion with the Haughtons (new owners of the 8501 Flourtown Ave property) noted the following:

They just recently purchased the property and have no plans at the moment for the site or the buildings.

They really like the character of the carriage house (approximately 4,200 sf). They might consider making this their actual residence.

They will review the Historic Ordinance to see how the offerings might help in their planning for future use of the property.

The Springfield Township Historical Society (STHS) does have some information on the property and its history. The Haughtons indicated they will contact as a follow-up in search of more information.

The Historical Commission thanked the Haughtons for coming to the meeting to discuss their property. This is exactly the approach envisioned by the HC in its role in advocating for retention of significant properties in the Township

Update—Members of the Commission visited this property on April 5 in lieu of a meeting. Notes from Commission Member Heather Killinger are attached to these minutes.

June 7 Update—No action reported. Historical Society archivist had prepared a copy of information in the Historical Society files, which was given to the Haughtons and copies were distributed at the meeting (and are attached to these minutes).

July 7 Update—Nothing additional to report

September 6 Update: No additional discussion

December 6 Update: No additional discussion

- 6) **Citizen Comments** *None*
- 7) **Assignment of Member Action Items**
 - **Communicate to the Knipe family to give them guidance as to how to apply for the Township list.—Mr. Penecale will draft that request.**
 - **Draft letter to the Board of Commissioners regarding the consideration of the list in the Comprehensive Plan as the initial township list—Mr. Penecale will draft that request.**
- 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 7:00 PM. Next meeting will be **January 3, 2023** at 6 PM to continue the discussion on the best means to move forward.

Respectfully Submitted

Albert M. Comly, Jr., AIA
Secretary