



Springfield Township Historical Commission

September 3, 2024

MINUTES OF MEETING OF REGULAR MEETING

HC-43

Meeting held in the Caucus Room at the 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:	
Matthew Harris	Commission Chair		
David Sands	Commission Vice Chair		
Joseph Devine	Commission Member	Peter Wilson	Board of Commissioners
Al Comly	Commission Secretary	Mark Penecale	Staff Liaison

Not present: B Standish, H Killinger

- 1) **Call by Order by the Chairperson** **Called to order at 6:08 PM by Chair Matthew Harris.. Roll was taken and absentees noted.**
- 2) **Approval of Minutes** **Meeting HC-42 (July 2, 2024) Motion by M. Harris, second by D. Sands.**

For Clarification—no meeting was held in August due to scheduling problems with member vacations and township events.

3) Update by Board of Commissioners' Liaison: Commissioner Liaison Pete Wilson

Commissioner Wilson noted that the Commissioners had not taken a position on the addition of a historic review as part of the SALDO Sub-Division Land Development Ordinance).

The Commissioner also noted the dedication of the playground at Cisco Park and some upcoming proposals regarding Mount St Joe's and the improvements at the Stenton Ave—Northwestern Av intersection.

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-43.1 The discussion continued regarding how best to incorporate the review of important structures into the SALDO. All items previously discussed were reviewed to find the most appropriate process to balance the retention of important structures, while not adding unnecessary burden to the SALDO process. This was an important consideration when it involves a structure that may be old—having been constructed prior to 1940, but not significant in the overall township scheme.

It was noted that timing is important right now. The planning commission has indicated that they are supportive of this approach—noting that this would be part of an overall SALDO editing. The township solicitor will soon receive the edits to review. Clearer information is needed from the Historical Commission to show:

What information is needed to determine if the proposed project needs a more comprehensive historical review

How will this be coordinated to assure that the time constraints in the Act 247 are maintained.

Item HC-42.1 (below) outlines the specific purpose of the form and its integration into the SALDO review process

The Commission members present agreed that this is the most appropriate course of action. This action addresses many of the discussions in previous meetings—hence those discussions are not recorded in this meeting record, but are available in the prior meeting records.

Mr. Penecale will be on medical leave until the middle of October. It was agreed that a preliminary form would be prepared to show what information needed to be included to trigger Historical Commission review. This form must be ready for action at the next meeting—scheduled for October 15. Mr. Harris agreed to lead this effort, but it will be circulated to all members for comment.

HC-42.1 The discussion, as noted above, focused on the concerns raised by Township Manager Mike Taylor the pursuing the addition of a historic review into the SALDO process would add complication and cost. There was also a concern raised as to how the properties would be “selected” for review were historic review to become part of the SALDO and how the HC would adhere to the time requirements that are part of the SALDO process. The discussion resulted in Mr. Penecale agreeing to prepare a memo for the HC in response to Mr. Taylor’s concerns, noting that these concerns were most likely shared by a number of the Township Commissioners. Primary items to be addressed in this memo would include:

- The HC has tried on numerous occasions to interest property owners in becoming listed. The lack of success to date can be attributed, at least in part, to the fact that the current historic ordinance offers little benefit to commercial property owners—little more than they can already do within the current zoning ordinance.
- There is no list of structures that would be considered important to the Township. This is another item that has been raised frequently in discussions. Without such a list of important structures, there is no way to communicate to owners and potential developers that they are dealing with a structure of interest. The HC feels this is an important step that needs to be done. The HC had presented this to the Commissioners earlier this year—noting that retaining an consultant would significantly streamline the process. The criteria in Section 46-7 would provide an excellent starting point for this evaluation.
- Section 46-5, part B of the historic ordinance outlines the duties of the HC. The HC believes that our position on the development of a list of interest and inclusion in the SALDO review process are very much a part of those duties.
- The HC has appeared before the Township Planning Commission to request its assistance and approval of including the HC review in the SALDO process—noting that there is a review currently underway, and this addition would be timely in the overall process.
- The HC will work on a form to be used as part of the review process—to help focus on important structures of interest, for reasons that will be of value to the Township, rather than simply using a criterion like the age of the structure. This would help eliminate structures that were just old, but not possessing the characteristics warranting a full HC review. This would help reduce the overall cost and administrative impact of involving the HC in the SALDO review process.

HC-39.2 **Haws Lane Carriage House** The Commission was asked about the carriage house that currently stands on the Haws Lane site as to whether this would be a candidate for historical review

Update—April 2, 2024 While not discussed in detail, this illustrates a situation that would result in HC review under the proposed SALDO revision.

Update—May 7, 2024 No additional Discussion

Update—July 2, 2024 No Additional Discussion

Update—September 2, 2024 No Additional Discussion

HC-34.1 The Commission discussed the merits of the Pennsylvania Certified Local Government Program (CLG) administered by the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO) for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). Attached to these minutes are the Guidelines & Procedures for Pennsylvania Communities and checklists relative to the requirements to participate in the CLG. Becoming certified in the CLG program offers opportunities in funding and technical assistance not otherwise available. It was agreed that more discussion was needed and closer review of our current status relative to the requirements would be undertaken.

Update—March 5, 2024 No discussion

Update—April 2, 2024 No discussion

Update—May 7, 2024 Priority is the SALDO revision at this time.

Update—July 7, 2024 No Change

Update—September 2, 2024 No discussion

6) Citizen Comments

- **None**

7) Assignment of Member Action Items

- **Mr. Harris will begin the HC form to accompany the SALDO inclusion of historic structures in the review process. This will be circulated for comment.**

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 on Motion by Joe Devine, second by David Sands. **Next meeting will be October 15, 2024, to coordinate with Mr. Penecale's return to the office.**

Respectfully Submitted

Albert M. Comly, Jr., AIA
Secretary