



Springfield Township Historical Commission

May 3, 2022

MINUTES OF MEETING OF REGULAR MEETING

HC-22

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:

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

Not in Attendance: Scott Kreilick, Heather Snyder-Killinger, Baird Standish

Guests: Mary and Michael Harkins 1799 Willow Grove Ave, Wyndmoor

- 1) **Call by Order by the Chairperson**-Called to order at 6:11 PM by the Vice-Chair Matthew Harris with roll taken.
- 2) **Approval of Minutes** from previous meeting: January 4, 2022 (HC-20) and February 1, 2022 (HC-21) were approved as follows:

HC-20 motion Sands, second Comly, abstain Devine

HC-21 motion Sands, second Devine, abstain Harris

Meeting scheduled for March 1, 2022 was unofficial due to lack of a quorum so no minutes were done

Meeting scheduled for April 5, 2022 was a tour of 8501 Flourtown Ave—no minutes

- 3) **Update by Board of Commissioners' Liaison: Commissioner Standish was unable to attend the meeting.**
- 4) **Review of Agenda** No changes to the agenda
- 5) **Discussion Items and Appropriate Action ("Previous Business" and "New Business" in earlier minutes).**

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.

HC-21.1 Mr. Penecale then introduced the Haughtons, who now own the property at Flourtown Ave in Wyndmoor. In a brief introductory summary, the following items were noted:

This property is situated between Flourtown Avenue and Elliston Drive, with access via a driveway from Flourtown Ave, and a 50' wide frontage on Elliston. County records do not include a street address. Site is listed as 3.76 Acres

The property is subdividable under the current zoning (AA-Residential), but would need a number of variances to subdivide the property.

Property has two structures, a large house and a carriage house. It was formerly owned by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

HC-21.2 A discussion with the Haughtons 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.

HC-19.1 The discussion continued regarding how best to move forward with the implementation of the ordinance. Key discussion points:

- General consensus that a list, even if informal was necessary to communicate with those involved in planning and zoning as well as the public in general.
- Start from the Comprehensive Plan and add or subtract based on discussion. Mr Penecale provided some site information on 5 of the properties listed in the Comprehensive Plan. No action was taken on these information packets

At the December meeting. Mr. Penecale had provided the Board with information on 6 sites currently listed on Comprehensive Plan specifically:

8501 Flourtown Ave

8775 Stenton Ave

277 Northwestern Ave

8850 Montgomery Ave

520 E Gravers Lane

525 Bethlehem Pike

The Board discussed how best to review properties to determine which ones would or should be placed on a township historic inventory. No conclusion was reached. More discussion is needed to finalize the criteria

6) Citizen Comments *None*

7) **Assignment of Member Action Items**

- **Mr. Penecale will continue to assemble information on the original properties—15 or 20 of the first list of properties for board consideration as a possible “informal list”**
- **Mr. Harris will forward information from his files to help with the review**

8) **Agenda for next meeting** *All new agenda items shall be forwarded to Mr. Penecale at least one week prior to scheduled meeting date*

Continuation of discussion regarding how to “roll-out” this program to the public and the compilation of the historic inventory.

9) **Adjournment** Adjournment at 7:00 PM. Next meeting will be June 7, 2022 at 6PM to continue the discussion on the best means to move forward

Respectfully Submitted

Albert M. Comly, Jr., AIA
Secretary

Attachment: 2022-05.03 Killinger Notes (2 pages)