



Springfield Township Historical Commission

OCTOBER 6, 2020

MINUTES OF MEETING OF REGULAR MEETING

HC-6

ZOOM DIGITAL BROADCAST

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 of October 6, 2020 meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM with roll call

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name:		Name:	
Scott Kreilick	Commission Chair	Heather Snyder-Killinger	Commission Member
Matthew Harris	Commission Vice Chair	Mark Penecale	Staff Liaison
Al Comly	Commission Secretary	Baird Standish	Commissioner Liaison
David Sands	Commission Member		

Not on the call: Joseph Devine (Commission Member); Brandon Ford (Assistant to Township Manager)

No guests were on the call

FORMAT REVISION—THIS SET OF MINUTES IS REVISED TO THE AGENDA OUTLINE SET FORTH IN THE LATEST VERSION OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION BY-LAWS DRAFT-Rev 3-23 Sept 2020

- 1) **Call by Order by the Chairperson**
- 2) **Approval of Minutes** from previous meetings (both September 1, 2020 HC-5A and September 15 HC-5B): Mr Sands requested that the reference to Marie Kitto be corrected (2020-07.07 update of item HC-1.2). This will be corrected and the

minutes re-issued for record. Motion by Mr. Sands, second by Mr. Harris to accept Minutes designated HC-5A passed. Motion by Mr. Sands, second by Mr. Harris to accept Minutes designated HC-5B passed.

- 3) **Update by Board of Commissioners' Liaison** Commissioner Standish presented his comments in the course of the discussion.
- 4) **Review of Agenda** No changes to the agenda
- 5) **Discussion Items and Appropriate Action ("Previous Business" and "New Business" in earlier minutes).**

HC-5A.1 By-Laws Commission members received updated copies of the By-Laws as reviewed by the Solicitor. While comments were generally acceptable, a few questions were raised regarding term limits (none stated); quorum for meetings (3 members); modifying the outline meeting agenda to include Citizen Comments. Mr Kreilick will work with Mr. Penacale to finalize the text

2020-09.15—Update Revision II of the By-Laws was distributed to the members earlier in the day. Members are to review and comment by e-mail. Schedule is to have this ready for the Commissioners Workshop meeting on 10/12. Inclusion on that schedule must accommodate time for review by the Solicitor—anticipated to be at least one week prior to the meeting (which will be prior to next scheduled Historical Commission meeting on October 6, 2020)

2020-10.06—Update *Revision 3 (23 September 2020) of the By-Laws has been forwarded to the Commissioners for final approval. Copy attached*

HC-1.2 Mr. Harris presented the updated Scope of Work he had prepared for use in the selection of a firm to assist in preparing the inventory of properties as outlined in the Historical Preservation Ordinance. Discussion continued noting:

- The inventory is really the foundation of the Historical Preservation Ordinance.
- Time frame for the inventory or the "cut-off date" for initial inclusion in the inventory consideration. 50 years is a typically quoted time, but this might result with the inclusion of an exceptionally large number of properties in the inventory. Mr. Penecale was asked to investigate the availability of data regarding structures and their ages in the township. Montgomery County does have the capability to create a list of properties with presumed construction date, address and owner. Consensus was reached on structures built prior to 1970. Once the list is available, the time frame could then be adjusted and further focused
- Survey Guidelines and level of detail. Section 106 of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards is a baseline. Generally, this survey will not extensive review a structure's history or detail. Once the Scope is further developed, this can be reviewed with Corey Kogerise of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for additional comments and suggestions.

- Previous lists and surveys. Previous lists of buildings in the township that might be considered for the inventory and survey information will be made available to the proposers—to the extent these lists are available
- Project Duration will be dependent upon the number of structures that might be included
- Proposal process will follow township protocol for professional services regarding distribution, delivery and the responses to questions and requests for clarification.
- A budget has been established for this inventory—assumed to be approximately \$30,000. Inventory scope can be refined to fall within this estimate and still provide the needed inventory

Discussion ended with the following “next steps”:

- Secure the list as discussed
- Review the draft scope of work further (Mr. Harris will forward this to Commission members)
- Be prepared to finalize scope at the next meeting—noting the highlighted sections to be finalized

2020-07.07—update: Discussion continued focusing on finalizing the scope of work for the RFP, noting:

Previous surveys will be made available to the successful proposing firm to the extent they are available in the Township archives. Mr. Kreilick will check to see if any additional materials are available in the archives of the Historical Society. Surveys discussed included:

- Temple survey (by students from Temple University). Involved 255 properties (selection process for the 255 was not completely clear). Focus of survey was to inventory and prioritize. Group resource is available, but the existence of the analysis is unknown. Temple will not be open for inquiry until mid-August
- 1995 survey of Flourtown & Erdenheim (done through a grant) contents were done with 2 accompanying photographs. Some of this material is available at the Springfield Township Historical Society (STHS) archives, but the inventory has not been located. This list originated with [Marie C. Klto](#) and was expanded by Cindy Hamilton (STHS member). It was believed to have been included in the Township Comprehensive Plan. **(name corrected at approval of minutes on 10-6-2020)**

It was agreed that the discussion would continue next month when Mr. Harris could join the conversation. The concern remains that trying to inventory 1600 buildings constructed prior to the World War II would be beyond the scope and budget of this inventory

2020-08.04—update. Discussion continued on the scoping for the RFP, noting that this inventory would represent the basis for the application of the Historical Ordinance and the operation of the Historical Commission. Key items discussed included the following:

1600 properties was too many for the initial scope. The 255 properties identified in the Temple study and follow-up were considered as a more reasonable focus for the initial scope

Consideration might be given to creating the RFP to identify a means to set a “unit cost” to add properties during the inventory if a property was identified by the consultant as worthy, but was previously not on the list.

2020-05.01 Update. Discussion centered on the recent list prepared by Ms. Snyder-Killinger of sites with development potential. This raised the question as to the focus of the inventory, whether it was to review large parcels or provide input on properties that met the criteria for historic significance as presented in the Ordinance (Event, Occupant, Designer, Importance). It was also noted that it is important to get to the next phase of this process, since each property owner for properties that are identified on the inventory must be approached to “opt-in or opt-out” of the inventory.

2020-05.15 Update. Discussion continued on the inventory and how best to move forward. It was agreed that historic significance is the primary concern in this effort, noting this is an “Opt In List”—properties cannot be forced on the list, owners must agree. Other properties could request inclusion—with the understanding those properties met the requirements for inclusion. *Motion by Mr. Sands, seconded by Mr. Devine to establish the list as the combination of the properties list prepared by Ms. Snyder-Killinger and the list from the Historical Society as amended by Cindy Hamilton would serve as the initial site inventory. This motion passed on voice vote with no abstentions or no votes.*

This list remains in draft form and is privileged at this time. Next step is to forward to the Commissioners for comment. It is not clear at what point this list becomes public. The Township will research and advise.

2020-10.06 Update. *Discussion continued regarding the logistics of progressing with the listing of sites/ structures. Considerations discussed:*

- ***Smaller groups—possibly by area of the Township i.e “Wyndmoor, Erderheim, Flouertown, Oreland” etc.***
- ***How many to include in the initial group—noting this could cause confusion as to how the group was determined***
- ***Publicity—use of Chestnut Hill Local to publicize, as well as social media and other groups with special interests in historic properties***

HC-6.1 ***Several other issues were raised as comments regarding other Township sites:***

- ***8501 Flouertown Ave—Mr. Kreilick noted this property is “on the market” adding the Historical Society had assembled some background information on this site and its history. Mr. Penacale noted the property will have to go to the Zoning Hearing Board for any type of subdivision due the lack of street frontage on adjacent Elliston Drive.***

- **Lodges Lane property in Oreland—Regarding Montco list of Potential Historic Sites: Proper site identification of site is 911 Valley Lane**
- **Several other sites appear in need of updating of ownership/ site addresses and similar information**

6) **Citizen Comments** None

7) **Assignment of Member Action Items**

Mr. Penacale: Soft Cover Letter to announce this program to possible sites.

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

Next meeting date would fall on Election Day NOVEMBER 3, 2020. Mr Penacale will clarify next meeting date

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

9) **Adjournment** Motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Sands passed. Meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Albert M. Comly, Jr., AIA