



# Springfield Township Historical Commission

MARCH 2, 2021

MINUTES OF MEETING OF REGULAR MEETING

HC-13

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 ATTENDEES

Name:		Name:	
Scott Kreilick	Commission Chair	David Sands	Commission Member
Matthew Harris	Commission Vice Chair	Heather Snyder-Killinger	Commission Member
Al Comly	Commission Secretary	Baird Standish	Commissioner Liaison
Brandon Ford	Ass't to Township Mgr	Mark Penecale	Staff Liaison

Not on Call: Joseph Devine—Commission Member

Guests: Chris Weth—interested party

- 1) **Call by Order by the Chairperson Kreilick**-Called to order at 6:04 PM by the Chair with roll taken.
- 2) **Approval of Minutes** from previous meetings: (February 2, 2021) Motion by Comly, second by Harris to approve--passed. (February 16, 2021) Motion by Comly, second by Kreilick to hold to next meeting.
- 3) **Update by Board of Commissioners' Liaison** None
- 4) **Review of Agenda** No changes to the agenda

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

**HC-12.1 Mr Ford summarized the revisions to the procedures to avoid future episodes with interruptions from outside sources.**

**HC-11.1** The primary agenda item was the presentation to property owners of list properties. While it was noted that only one such property owner was able to join the call, it was agreed that proceeding with the presentation was appropriate. Chair Scott Kreilick made the presentation, providing a brief introduction and highlighting the value of the program to the Township going forward.

- There are approximately 1600 structures in the Township built before the year 1920. The initial list was distilled to those properties listed in the Springfield Township Comprehensive Plan of 2015.
- Ordinance is intended to protect the historic integrity and character of the Township
- Ordinance is intended to create a benefit to listed property owners in the future use of their properties. The use of Special Exception in the ordinance places the burden on the Township to show why the use is not in keeping with the ordinance. If not listed, the owner would probably need to seek a Variance from the Zoning Hearing Board—meaning the burden of proof would then rest with the property owner for any use not currently dictated in the Zoning Ordinance
- Ordinance is not intended to get into control of colors and similar subjective issues. It will be expected that owners will maintain the properties to avoid deterioration of the property
- Owners will have access to prepared historical abstracts of their properties.

2021-02.16 Update—none, but it was noted that none of the invited property owners had responded to the invitations. No further presentations will be scheduled until a review of the process is done.

**2021-03.02 Update—Discussion of next steps was held. Mr. Comly and Commissioner Standish gave summaries of the interview with Barbara Sheehan of the Chestnut Hill Local. Both reviewed the intent of the law, emphasizing the positive aspects of retaining the historic structures in the Township. Also answered questions as to why an owner would want to participate and how that could be done.**

**Discussion then moved to the next steps. There will be an article in the Township newsletter due out in March. Mr Penecale noted that the Township had received calls from various parties who did not receive their invitations until the day of the second presentation, or even later. Some were out of town for the winter, others just experienced significant mail delivery delays. Several ideas were voiced:**

- **Work with the Chestnut Hill Local article once published (expected in next week or so)**
- **Work with the Historical Society to coordinate efforts regarding the ordinance**

- **Look to social media (FaceBook and some the local sites like “Next Door”)**

**HC-10.2** Other publicity was discussed. Township newsletter (usually published in 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March), and The Chestnut Hill Local (willing to do a separate piece on the progress of the ordinance)

Update 2-2-2021: In process

Update 2-16-2021: No additional discussion

**Update 3/2/2021: See item 11.2 above. Interview held on February 26.**

**6) Citizen Comments** *No guests at the meeting*

**7) Assignment of Member Action Items**

All members to consider other ways to generate interest in the ordinance

**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.**

**9) Adjournment** Next meeting will be April 6 at 6PM to discuss best means to move forward

Respectfully Submitted

Albert M. Comly, Jr., AIA