



Springfield Township Historical Commission

July 5, 2022

MINUTES OF MEETING OF REGULAR MEETING

HC-24

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
David Sands	Commission Member	Joseph Devine	Commission Member
Al Comly	Commission Secretary	Mark Penecale	Staff Liaison

Not in Attendance: Matthew Harris, Baird Standish

Guests: None

- 1) **Call by Order by the Chairperson-**Called to order at 6:04 PM by Chair Scott Kreilick. Roll was taken and absentees noted.
- 2) **Approval of Minutes** Approval of minutes from meeting HC-22 (May 3, 2022) Motion David Sands, Second by Joseph DeVine. Passed with abstentions by Heather Killinger and Scott Kreilick. Meeting HC-23 (June 7, 2022) was tabled noting that those in attendance at the meeting had not been present at the June meeting and corrections were necessary. This will be done at the next meeting in September.

- 3) **Update by Board of Commissioners' Liaison:** Commissioner Standish was unable to attend the meeting. Mr Penecale offered the following for information:
Only Land Development in process is La Salle High School new building
Harston Woods remains an issue before the Commissioners. No further discussion of the existing buildings on the site.
- 4) **Review of Agenda** No changes to the agenda
- 5) **Discussion Items and Appropriate Action ("Previous Business" and "New Business" in earlier minutes).**

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)**

HC-23.1 Discussion focused on how the Historical Commission can best define its mission and how to clearly incorporate that mission in the Planning and Zoning process. Several items were noted:

The issue of the inventory and the concept of having a list of important Township buildings was discussed—noting that anything formal must have the approval of the Commissioners.

How to interface with Land Development, Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance

General agreement that the current ordinance does not have any standing if the property owner has not opted into the program.

It was agreed that an informal meeting of the Commission members might be a way to move forward with recommendations as to how best to address the community desires and property rights issues that arise with buildings deemed to be important to the Township. An informal meeting will be planned, hopefully prior to the next regular meeting.

July 5 Update—this item will be combined with item 24.1 in future 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.

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

July 5 Update: No 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

- 6) **Citizen Comments** *None*
- 7) **Assignment of Member Action Items**
 - **Mr Penecale will attempt to get an updated list from the County of all structures in the Township prior to 1945.**
 - **Mr. Kreilick will attempt to get more information on the “Temple survey” done on township buildings.**
 - **Mr. Penecale will assemble a list of the various permits in the township development process.**
- 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 6:57 PM. Next meeting will be **September 6, 2022** at 6 PM to continue the discussion on the best means to move forward. There will be no meeting in August due to vacations and schedule conflicts.

Respectfully Submitted

Albert M. Comly, Jr., AIA
Secretary