



Springfield Township Historical Commission

July 7, 2026 MINUTES OF MEETING OF REGULAR MEETING

HC-61

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 do not reflect a final decision. The Board of Commissioners must render the final decision on any agenda items

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name:		Name:	
David Sands	Commission Chair	Matthew Harris	Commission Vice Chair
Susanna Ratsavong	Commissioner Liaison	Will Ruthrauff	Commission Member
Al Comly	Commission Secretary	Mark Penecale	Staff Liaison

Excused: J Devine; B Standish
Guest; None

- 1) **Call by Order by the Chairperson** **Called to order at 6:07 PM by Chair David Sands. Roll was taken and absentees noted.**
- 2) **Approval of Minutes** **Meeting HC-60 minutes (May meeting). Motion by Mr. Ruthrauff, seconded by Mr. Harris to approve. motion carried**
- 3) **Update by Board of Commissioners' Liaison:**
Commissioner Ratsavong was in attendance. She presented a summary she had prepared as a proposal for moving forward. This served as the agenda for the meeting

- 4) **Review of Agenda** It was agreed to use Ms. Ratsavong's summary as the agenda for the meeting.
- 5) **Discussion Items and Appropriate Action** ("Previous Business" and "New Business" in earlier minutes).

HC-61.1 Ms Ratsavong presented a summary that she had prepared to help re-focus the historic building efforts in the Township. She recognized that the Historical Commission has been expending significant effort to reasonably identify and preserve buildings that are significant to the Township. Notable points in the discussion included:

- What is the level of involvement that the Township desires. Some research has shown that there are multiple different approaches being applied in the surrounding Townships, with no real consensus. Basically, the desire is to "prevent the demolition of our favorite buildings".
- It really is important to develop a list of these important ("favorite") structures. Question is how many? Current list includes Township owned buildings that have not been added to the official Township list.
- The development of a list is really best done by a consultant
- Must involve the Township solicitor to determine how to transition from the current ordinance to something that does not require just the "opt-in" option for the listing by the Township.
- What is the best mechanism to proffer this level of control—the SALDO or the building permit process? It also begs the question as to what is the age threshold for consideration as historically importance?

HC-60.1 Mr. Sands discussed his email distributed to Commission members on April 23 regarding the Characteristics of Historic Resources. This is in response to some concerns that the 50-year threshold was not appropriate. Mr. Sands' presentation relied upon the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHNC) description of a historic resource. A copy of Sands email is attached. MOTION by Mr. Sands, seconded by Mr. Comly to use the Class II analysis (essentially locally vetted resources as defined by PHMC) for the proposed survey of resources in the township was presented. Motion carried. Mr. Ruthruff abstained.

HC-60.2 Mr. Sands proposed sending a letter to the Commissioners addressing:

Preparation of a list of properties in the Township—following the PHMC guidance referenced in Item HC-60.1—to be entitled "Properties of Interest Within Springfield Township"

Approval of the RFP for a historical consultant by the Commissioners

Amend Chapter 46 Historic Resources to include incentives for commercial properties that would include tax relief to generate greater interest in historic properties within Springfield Township

If the Commissioners chose to reject the above listed recommendations, the Historical Commission recommends the repeal of the Historical Preservation Ordinance.

Motion by Mr. Sands, seconded by Mr. Comly to prepare a letter to the Township Manager itemizing the recommendations above

HC-54.2 Status of Carson Valley School Nothing new regarding the status of this property

HC-45.1 SALDO incorporation is in process. Proposed revisions/ SALDO additions were presented to Planning Commission. Now in legal review **no Change**

6) Citizen Comments

- None

7) Assignment of Member Action Items

8) Agenda for next meeting: *Continue discussion of Ms. Ratsavomg's presentation*

9) Adjournment Adjournment at 6:50 PM on Motion by Willim Ruthrauff second by Al Comly. **Next meeting will be August 18, 2026**

Respectfully Submitted

Albert M. Comly, Jr., AIA
Secretary