

Minutes July 20, 2021
Upper Merion Township Historical Commission

Date: **Tuesday, 07/20/2021 at 7:30 PM** (In-person/Virtual Meeting)

Name	Present	Regrets	Name	Present	Regrets
Kenn Brown	X		Matt McCaffery	X	
Eileen Council	X		Dave Montalvo	X	
David Dolga	X		Greg Philips	X	
Pat Jordan	X		Tina Smith	X	
Laura Maggio	X				

Guest: Don Herbert

Meeting began 7:30PM

Motion to approve Minutes from May meeting by Pat; seconded by Laura
Motion Passed 6-0.

Township Manager, Tony Hamaday postponed his request for time tonight to talk about a proposed BID plan that involves the Burgess Arboretum on the Moore-Irwin property. The Historical Commission was notified that the discussion would take place during the Board of Supervisors Workshop on August 5, 2021. Parks and Recreation Board, Shade Tree Commission and the Historical Commission Chairpersons will be sent a link to attend the meeting virtually.

- 1) Review of information sent to the members proposing that the Historical Commission co-sponsor events celebrating the PHMC marker for the Anna Morris Holstein House:
 - a. Dave reported on the information sent to members
 - b. Matt made a motion to approve a co-sponsorship between the Historical Society and the Historical Commission for events surrounding the placement of the PHMC marker at the Anna Morris Holstein House; seconded by Eileen.
 - c. Motion Passed 6-0
- 2) The Historical Commission discussed if there was a need for Historical Commission to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors to approve the Historical Commission to co-sponsor with the Historical Society. Greg informed the Historical Commission that he would bring it up to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration.
- 3) Report on the Historical Preservation Camp sponsored by the Tredyffrin Historical Commission attended by Pat and Laura. They reported on the various speakers, resources and information available for Historical Commissions.

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- 4) Don Herbert attended the meeting to discuss the Historical Commission's interest in moving forward with the Oral Histories Project, "Voices of Upper Merion."
 - a. Tina stated her concern that along with the technical details, the vision, mission and goals for this project must include diversity, equity, inclusion commitment on the part of the Historical Commission.
 - b. Matt made the motion to have the Historical Commission discuss the details of the Oral History Project at the next meeting and to set the discussion as agenda item number 1; seconded by Pat
 - c. Motion Passes 6-0

- 5) Dave Dolga reported on a proposed process of how the Historical Commission can receive donations for projects through the township.
 - a. Greg stated that the Board of Supervisors and the Upper Merion Foundation would both need to approve the proposed process
 - b. Greg reported that he would have the proposed process placed on the Board of Supervisors' Agenda for their next business meeting .

- 6) Dave Dolga reported that the Historical Commission might be able to have a web-page on the Upper Merion Township's website, and that he had asked Tina to follow up with PIO Director.
 - a. Pat volunteered to assist with this project
 - b. Tina stated that she had a meeting scheduled with UMT's PIO Director on Wednesday, July 21st per request of Dave Dolga. Tina was asked to cc Dave Dolga on any correspondence with PIO Director

- 7) On June 17, 2021, the Historical Commission was forwarded a notification about a PHMC and Historical Records Advisory Board grant opportunity for Archival records.
 - a. Deadline to apply is August 2, 2021, less than two weeks away; the commission agreed to hold off applying until next year
 - b. Dave Montalvo stated that this grant has been offered yearly

- 8) The Historical Commission is interested in creating educational displays about the history of Upper Merion township and other historical events. Use of display cases in the atrium of the Upper Merion Township building, as well as a new area "wall space" at the lower level of the UMT building had been identified in previous meetings..
 - a. Dave Dolga reported to the Historical Commission that Upper Merion Township would allow the Historical Commission to place displays in the township building
 - b. Greg reported that the Historical Commission should consider partnering with the Library Board and the Parks and Recreation Board to discuss utilizing space within their respective areas
 - c. Pat agreed to work with Don on a short TV spot that would loop within the township building about Anna Morris Holstein

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- 9) Dave Dolga updated the commission on the PHMC marker that was in the area of Hanging Rock and the GMCA plaque:
 - a. PHMC marker is in the possession of PennDOT to install at the corner of S. Gulph Rd and Upper Gulph Rd. but HC has no word if the township has updated PHMC on the new co-ordinates for the marker
 - b. Gulph Hills Civic Association Fountain Marker—no update if representative contacted
- 10) Rebel Hill PHMC Marker Update--Laura is continuing the deed research on “Studio” lots.
- 11) No update on Moore-Irwin house structural survey report. Greg reported that the building “is not as bad as people thought.”
- 12) Dave Montalvo reported that he is working on the “List of Historical Properties in Upper Merion Township” spreadsheet, updating from two other sources of information.
- 13) The request for document file and management space on the UMT servers was updated by Dave Dolga. The IT Manager has not yet been able to dedicate time to exploring this project, but he is aware of it, and will schedule time as soon as it is possible.
- 14) Historical Commission discussed the logistics of their historical properties tour:
 - a. New Start Time-12:00PM
 - b. Meeting at the Township Building
- 15) The documents from the UMT Tri-Centennial are located in the library. Dave Montalvo volunteered to see if the file cabinets could be moved to the designated office space for HC in the future for the purposes of scanning the documents, indexing historical archives, and well as for public research.
- 16) No update on the Battista House remediation, renovation. Greg informed the Historical Commission that they can use the Battista House, but it is not open to the public.

New Business:

No New Business

Motion to adjourn made by Laura, seconded by Dave M
Motion Passed 6-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM

Items tabled:

- 1) Diversity Project with UMT Library
- 2) Voices of Upper Merion Oral History Project
- 3) James Toner resume re Historic Preservation, architecture
- 4) PHMC Grant for document scanning, storage

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Jaden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

8-19-21