

Minutes – May 17, 2022

Upper Merion Township Historical Commission

Date: Tuesday, 05/17/2022 at 7:30 PM

Location: Hybrid / Henderson Room, Upper Merion Township Bldg

Meeting called to order at 7:33

Attendance: (P – in person, V – virtual)

Name	Present	Regrets	Name	Present	Regrets
Laura Adlington	V		Matt McCaffery	P	
Kenn Brown		X	Dave Montalvo		X
David Dolga	P		Greg Philips		X
Pat Jordan	V		Tina Smith	V	

Motion to delay approval of Minutes from April 19, 2022 until the June 21, 2022 HC meeting.

Motion made by Tina, seconded by Laura; All approved; Motion passed.

1. Current Projects

a. America 250 PA project discussion.

- i. Creation of sub-committee to get ideas for projects leading up to the semi-quincentennial in 2026
- ii. Discussion of sub-committee membership with UMT community, other UMT Commission members (e.g. ECDC), other Historical Commissions, involve students with projects via UMASD, UMT Community Center. Topics might include the following:
- iii. Pat noted the work of Anna Morris Holstein as a Pa. State Building matron at the 1893 World's Fair at the Chicago Worlds Fair. AMH's historic preservation work saved Washington's HQ, led to the creation of Valley Forge National Park.
- iv. Tina and Pat also noted the work of Carrie Chapman Catt—related the work for Womens' right to vote with the Justice Bell now housed at the Washington Memorial Chapel in Valley Forge.
- v. Matt said he would reach out to members of the School Board

b. Historical Commission webpage content

- i. Pat submitted the article she wrote to the HC members for review, edits, approval. The article outlines the HC charter and the work that the HC has done since January 2020.
- ii. Pat noted that the photos were not yet submitted to the PIO contact and Dave D. because some of the photo source credits need to be added
- iii. Dave D said he would check the next day with the PIO Director as there was a question on the placement of this submission, building the HC webpage

- c. Historical interest displays/speaker project partnership with Parks and Rec Department Summer 2022
 - i. Pat spoke with Evan from Parks and Rec and they continue to outline some events.
 - ii. Speaker event –Matt will continue to work with the UMT Library to host a speaker
- d. Moore-Irwin House
 - i. Dave D gave an update that the township is looking for someone to bolster the front wall of the house that has been buckling.
 - ii. Tina noted that the HC was grateful to BOS Chair person for stating (at the close of the joint commission meeting April 21, 2022) that three businesses walked through the house with some of the Supervisors in the last year. BOS did not hear back from any of these businesses. The Chair person had stated that BOS would welcome business plans for consideration.
 - iii. The UMT Historical Commission recognizes the importance of the Moore-Irwin House on the property known to have housed General Muhlenberg’s HQ during the encampment at Valley Forge. The HC has advised and advocated for the possibility of stabilizing the house, searching for business partners to develop the house.
- e. GMCA plaque, fountain rebuild / PHMC Marker at Hanging Rock
 - i. The new plaque on the monument describing the relocation of the GMCA marker would cost between \$1,500 and \$2,000.
 - ii. To raise funds for the plaque, publicity from the HC webpage on the UMT website would point to the Upper Merion Foundation page, donation button.
 - iii. This process for donation via Upper Merion Foundation webpage was cleared last year and approved by BOS via Upper Merion Foundation, UMT financial director.
 - iv. Tina volunteered to follow up with Gerri Vattimo on this as links to the donation would be secure on the UMT website.
- f. List of Historical Properties, advisement to BOS for 2040 Comprehensive Plan
 - i. Pat continues to research PlumNilly estate
 - ii. Plans to visit PlumNilly as well as Martin’s Dam Swim Club are pending.
 - iii. Matt and Pat volunteered to research the material on cemeteries in Upper Merion at the Historical Society of Montgomery County

2. CLG Application

- a. Discussion led by Tina noted that this is a process that involves creation of ordinances, committees for preservation that would have authority to enforce ordinances, and also the adoption and active enforcement of International Existing Building Code (IEBC)
- b. Dave D noted that talking with the UMT Permits Department would ensure that UMT follows the IEBC, talking with the Director of Public Works would aid in identifying fulfillment of the CLG checklist for application

3. KOP BID outreach

- a. Matt will write a letter to KOP BID introducing the preservation work of HC, asking for sharing of ideas, resources

4. Street names

- a. Matt thought of suggesting a name change for a street in the Rebel Hill neighborhood.
- b. Matt noted that as this idea progressed, the residents did not support this.

- 5. Vacancies on HC: Current members are encouraged to speak about this opportunity, publicize the need for volunteers to apply with the township.

Communications

Tina noted the NAPC webinar on May 20, 2022. Topic: Preservation Justice: Making Your Local Government Preservation Program More Equitable.”

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Pat; seconded by Laura. All were in favor; motion to adjourn passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM

Items tabled

1. Diversity Project with UMT Library
2. James Toner resume re Historic Preservation, architecture
3. PHMC Grant for document scanning, storage
4. Oral History Project
5. Saving Places submission regarding Moore-Irwin House and Property

X

Matthew Paul McGeffery
Chair

