

Minutes February 18, 2020
Upper Merion Township Historical Commission

Date: **Tuesday, 2/18/20 at 6:30 PM**

Present: Greg Philips, Dave Montalvo, Tina Smith, Pat Jordan, Matt McCaffery, Eileen Council
Kenn Brown (Planning Commission Liaison)

Guest: Joe Brophy, UMT ECDC

Regrets: Bill Del Collo

Meeting began 6:45 PM

From Agenda emailed 2/3/2020 and 2/11/2020:

- 1) Projects—Prioritize list from 1/21/20 Minutes; additional projects?
 - Pan Asian population events—suggestion to coordinate with UMT Library for Diwali celebrations. Suggested visit by Author of new release children's book, *Finding Om* with its publisher, Mango and Marigold Press
 - Notes and information received on Sunny Hill Farm
 - Discussion on one of the purposes of the Historical Commission: to list historical locations in the township. Resources identified from list from Google Maps, KofP Historical Society.
- 2) Define roles, responsibilities of Chairperson, Vice-chair, Secretary. No comments, table this item to another meeting.
- 3) UMT Staff Liaison member for Historical Commission update: BOS liaison said that this was being worked on.
- 4) Discussion re: artifacts at library as Historical commission resources and some collected by King of Prussia Historical Society
 - Dave Montalvo brought in artifacts collected for UMT Tri-centennial that are stored with King of Prussia Historical Society at present. Until a location can be established for the HC, these artifacts will remain where they are now housed.
- 5) Report on Moore-Irwin House, status of grants, possible new structural study
 - Joe Brophy from ECDC along with HC member, Dave Montalvo, shared information about the Moore-Irwin house.
 - Primary historical sources exist to confirm that General Muhlenberg used a house on the site during Revolutionary War as headquarters; it has not yet been confirmed with primary sources that any of the existing structure is the same as the structure used by General Muhlenberg.
 - Primary historical sources identify part of the existing Moore-Irwin house as a work of the eminent architect, R. Brognard Okie

--The arboretum has been designated by the UMT as a park; grants and funding have been provided for the preservation of the arboretum



Moore Irwin House

(see brief background info document) background info.docx

--Discussion cited studies completed (2008); later roof damage to the structure, loss of approved grant because the money was not used, and various projections of engineering studies' estimates.

--Ideas offered if the structure could not be saved:

Construct a "frame" outline of house similar to a Philadelphia historic site

Creation of a park, gardens that would feature the arboretum, would note with markers the significance of the structure

--Concluding the discussion, Dave Montalvo asked and clarified the question of BOS support for a new professional structural review if grant money were secured. BOS Liaison to HC supportive of this effort.

--When the outcome of the study is available, Dave Montalvo asked and clarified if the BOS would then be open to allowing the ECDC, Planning Commission and Historical Commission to begin to apply for grants to restore the structure, plan for its future use. BOS Liaison to HC supportive of this effort.

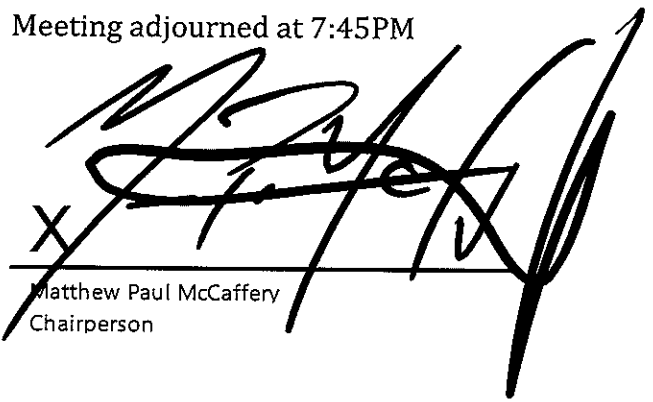
6) Commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment

--BOS liaison said that UMT Supervisor Tina Garzillo was interested in working on items, events to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment occurring on August, 2020.

--Discussion about a tent/booth at the Farmer's Market and at the UMT Fall Festival to celebrate history

--Tina Smith and Pat Jordan volunteered to work with Supervisor Tina Garzillo

Meeting adjourned at 7:45PM


Matthew Paul McCaffery
Chairperson