

Minutes February 16, 2021
Upper Merion Township Historical Commission

Date: **Tuesday, 2/16/2021 at 7:00 PM** (Virtual Meeting)

Name	Present	Regrets	Name	Present	Regrets
Kenn Brown		<input type="checkbox"/>	Dave Montalvo	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Eileen Council	<input type="checkbox"/>		Greg Philips		<input type="checkbox"/>
David Dolga	<input type="checkbox"/>		Sara Seipel		<input type="checkbox"/>
Pat Jordan	<input type="checkbox"/>		Tina Smith	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Matt McCaffery		<input type="checkbox"/>			

Guest attendee: Laura Maggio

Meeting began 7:10 PM

Reviewed, Approved the meeting minutes from January 2021

Motion to approve the Minutes: Dave M

Seconded: Eileen

All present voted in favor. Motion to approve minutes carried.

The members of the HC welcomed their new UMT Staff liaison, David Dolga to the commission. David has been with the township for twenty-one years, and for the last three years has been the manager of the township's Nor-View Farm. David is looking forward to finding out more about the township's historical heritage, helping with educational programs.

Items for discussion

1) Upper Merion Township Historical Commission's Executive Summary

--Pat introduced the goal of writing an Executive Summary to outline the projects worked on, those still in progress. This will also show the projects expected to evolve for the next year

--The draft of this Executive Summary will be based on the spreadsheet done describing the projects, as well as reviewing the minutes from meetings in 2020, 2021.

--The HC officers will write the draft including the HC mission statement written by the township, and a description of how the HC worked towards this purpose.

--Once completed, the draft will be sent to the members of the HC and ask for edits, review, questions from the HC.

Motion to write this draft of the Executive Summary was made by Tina, Seconded by Dave M.

All present voted in favor. Motion to approve carried.

2) UMT Historical Commission's Annual Report to UMT Board of Supervisors

--The requirement to submit an Annual Report to the BOS was stated by Pat as a requirement for township commissions and boards.

--David D. noted that annual reports would identify any funding needs and would typically be presented to the BOS in the October-November timeframe when the BOS is formulating the coming year's budget.

--Action Item: David said he would ask the township manager when Commissions' Annual Reports would be expected by the BOS.

Motion to inquire about Annual Report: Eileen

Seconded: Dave M

All present voted in favor. Motion to approve carried.

3) Voices of Upper Merion Oral History Project:

--Pat will reach out to sub-committee members to re-schedule their first meeting.

--A report on the progress will be given at the March 2021 HC meeting.

Motion to postpone this report until the next meeting: Dave M.

Seconded: Tina

All present voted in favor. Motion to approve carried.

4) PHMC Marker for Rebel Hill

--Tina will forward the PHMC application and requirements for submission to the HC members

--Tina will forward the draft for the marker to the HC members. Laura Maggio, Rebel Hill resident and member of the sub-committee, wrote the draft.

--Donation for funding for deed searches—question of transparency identifying the sponsors

--Action Item: David D. said he would find out from the township manager what this process for donation is, how to submit this information to BOS

--Tina will forward the outlined steps and timeline for completion to the HC members

--Research using primary sources for the marker:

(1) Revolutionary War importance—sources available, need to pick most pertinent

(2) Historically Black Community—Dave M. said that WECA has resources

confirming

--Action Item: Dave M: Work with WECA to secure, provide this primary source information

(3) Studio lots as part of Rebel Hill history, post-depression economy—verification to be confirmed or negated resulting from deed searches

--Advice from township needed as to placement of marker/property concerns/township resources to install marker (PHMC will maintain the marker once placed)

--Action Item: David D. to talk with township managers, others suggested by Mr. Hamaday on the location, installation of the marker.

Motion to pursue application for PHMC marker: Eileen

Seconded: Tina

All present voted in favor. Motion to approve carried.

5) Update on List of UMT Historical Properties

--HC noted that compiling a list of Upper Merion Township historical properties is part of the mission statement for the UMT HC

--Tina compiled a spreadsheet of historical properties based on documents from 1959 (157 properties listed); the 1960 update notes that 3 had been destroyed. The KofP Historical Society submitted these documents to the UMT Planning Commission in 1959 and 1960.

--HC members noted that some of the properties may no longer exist.

-- In the draft of the 2040 UMT Comprehensive Plan, there are 21 historical locations of importance noted; all of these are included in the KofP HS list.

--Action Item: Dave M to draft a letter to the BOS and Planning Commission to introduce the list compiled by the HC. This would alert the Planning Commission of the historical value of sites to consider if plans were to involve those locations.

--Suggestion that the members of HC organize a "field trip" to see these locations
Motion to send letter and lists to BOS, Planning Commission: Dave M.

Seconded: Eileen

All present voted in favor. Motion to approve carried.

6) Historic Property Updates

--Moore-Irwin House update on use of grant money received to do structural survey

Action Item: David D. to ask township manager the status of use of the grant money for this survey.

--Sunny Hill Farm: BOS to decide if space can be allocated to HC, KoP HS at the Feb 18, 2021 meeting

--After some discussion after the January 2021 meeting, BOS liaison suggested that the Chair and Vice-Chair send a request to BOS outlining space needed, draft of a project plan.

7) Question about how to research, source grants, if any tracking of grants by the township

--David D. noted that the BOS tracks grants, has resources about how to find grants.

Action Item: David D. to ask township manager for information about grants for HC

8) The question about UMT server space for the digital storage of working documents continues. The document management folders will ensure the history and continuity of work done and decisions made will be available to future HC members as well as UMT staff, Supervisors. The document management folders will include digitized copies of historical artifacts currently located in file cabinets at UMT Library. At the January 2021 HC meeting, BOS liaison said to contact UMT IT manager.

Action Item: Tina will write a description identifying who would have read/write/edit permission granted by UMT document Admin and how users would access files on UMT server. Tina to email this description to David D.

Action Item: David D. would talk with UMT IT manager, township manager about this.

Motion to request Document storage: Dave M.

Seconded: Eileen

All present voted in favor. Motion to approve carried.

9) Spring at Gulph Mills

--Dave M. said that he and a few others from KofP Historical Society had visited the area of the road re-routing on South Gulph Rd., area of Hanging Rock.

--The foreman at the site informed Dave that the stones formed a structure for the spring would be dismantled. The stones could be reassembled in the structure of the spring in a new location determined by UMT. PennDot can store the stones until that location is determined.

--Research on a location, submit this recommendation to BOS. Possibly Nor-View Farm?

Motion to adjourn meeting: Dave M.

Seconded: Eileen

All present voted in favor. Motion to adjourn carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

Items tabled:

1)HC Sponsorship of an event with author of the book, Finding Om.

--Tina Smith is continuing to work with UMT Library Director on this.

--Table for now, Tina will track if any events can be scheduled, keep the HC and BOS informed

Note: Diwali 2021 is in early November

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Jordan", with a long, sweeping underline.

Pat Jordan, Chairperson
UMT Historical Commission