

Minutes September 21, 2021
Upper Merion Township Historical Commission

Date: **Tuesday, 08/17/2021 at 7:30 PM** (Hybrid Attendance 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			

Meeting began 7:30PM

Motion to approve Minutes from August meeting by Dave M. and seconded by Eileen.

Motion Passed 4-0.

Motion made by Dave M. to correct the July minutes (stated that the May minutes were approved in July, but they were approved in June; the June minutes were approved in July).

Seconded by Eileen. Motion Passed 4-0.

1. Oral History Project

--Eileen volunteered to lead this project.

--Tina volunteered to work on the project

--Other commission members needed for this working group

2) Upper Merion Township's second PHMC marker will be installed at the property that was Anna Morris Holstein's house on October 7, 2021.

--BOS approved Historical Commission's co-sponsorship of the event

--Pat Jordan taped a video with the UMT PIO portraying Anna Morris Holstein with a message for today's citizens of Upper Merion.

--Pat authored a commemorative booklet that will be available at the Oct. 7th reception. Pat shared the contents with the HC.

3) Historical Commission web page on UMT website

--Volunteers needed to work on articles, curate photos, documents. Suggestions for quizzes, contests to engage students.

4) Historical Displays, UMT building

--In collaboration with the King of Prussia Historical Society, the UMT Historical Commission will provide a display this month into October on Anna Morris Holstein.

5) Hanging Rock area, S. Gulph Rd markers:

--The GMCA plaque, possibly a small fieldstone surround will be re-constructed and located at the corner of S. Gulph Rd and Upper Gulph Rd.

--The PHMC marker for Gulph Mills Village: Discussion on possible re-location of this marker to the actual Gulph Mills Village area.

--Missing PHMC markers—Tina volunteered to research information to replace, re-locate the missing “Encampment” marker to Rebel Hill area, possibly update text to combine with the Rebel Hill marker being researched.

6) Rebel Hill PHMC marker project update—no update; see #5 above.

7) List of 20 historical properties in Upper Merion Township. The Historical Commission will advise the BOS on the significance of these for historical preservation for the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

--Volunteers needed to work on the descriptions, write a first draft of HC advisement.

8) Update from Dave Dolga on document management for HC on township server: IT Manager will contact Dave D about this project when time becomes available.

--No change to this status as of September meeting.

9) Moore-Irwin House, Structural Report

Update from BOS Liaison that the report had been received sometime in the interim between the August HC meeting and September HC meeting.

--BOS Liaison said the report had not been read, any discussion would depend on BOS Chair scheduling a BOS Executive meeting.

-- After discussing the time-frames, the HC respectfully asked if the township might consider replacing the tarp as soon as possible. This basic, inexpensive measure is an immediate need for the structure if the decision to save the M-I house is given the go-ahead in the future.

--BOS Liaison said that replacing the tarp now would be acceptable, and he asked Dave D to follow up with Geoff Hickman to have the tarp replaced as soon as possible.

10) Engaging Community with Saving Moore-Irwin House:

--Status of the Historical Commission’s request that the Board of Supervisors establish a working committee with members of the Historical Commission and Shade Tree Commission, members of the Department of Parks and Recreation, and also with some members of the community who are not on township citizens’ commissions or employees of the township: BOS Liaison stated that the BOS had questions about forming a working committee.

--The Historical Commission requests the Board of Supervisors’ approval to create a survey asking Upper Merion Township citizens what their vision is for the use of the Moore-Irwin Property. No update on this request.

New Business:

11) Tina presented the request from Mr. Hough concerning a Flag Ceremony at Hanging Rock when S. Gulph road re-construction is completed but before the road is opened to traffic.

HC members suggested that Mr. Hough talk with State Representative Tim Briggs. Tina will give this information to Mr. Hough.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Dave M., seconded by Eileen. All were in favor, motion to adjourn passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Items tabled:

- 1) Diversity Project with UMT Library
- 2) James Toner resume re Historic Preservation, architecture
- 3) PHMC Grant for document scanning, storage