

Minutes October 19, 2021
Upper Merion Township Historical Commission

Date: **Tuesday, 10/19/2021 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 7:35PM

Motion to approve Minutes from September meeting made by Laura and seconded by Matt
Motion Passed 4-0.

Current Projects:

The following three projects have been stalled as commission members face these issues (1) that of the current five continuing members, the work needs to be done by all for each project; (2) that the UMT Historical Commission has no approved artifacts for display; (3) that the UMT Historical Commission does not have enough members who can volunteer to research, write, edit articles, come up with engaging educational ideas for historical displays, articles.

1. Oral History Project
 2. Historical Commission webpage on UMT website
 3. Historical interest displays:
 - Community Center –planning for Spring 2022
 - Township building –volunteers for planning, completion of exhibits
- How should the HC prioritize and work on the above projects?

4. Moore-Irwin House

HC members respectfully requested update on tarp replacement that BOS Liaison stated in September meeting that there would be no problem getting this done.

From the September Minutes:

“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.”

October meeting update:

--Dave Dolga reported that per Geoff Hickman, replacing the tarp would involve putting the workers at risk as it was deemed the roof was unsafe.

--Members of the HC present at the meeting asked if other means (use of a drone or a lift) might be used to replace the tarp.

--BOS Liaison stated that the roof is unsafe, in immediate danger of collapsing, tarp would not be replaced. Further, even if tarp were replaced, stated that the roof would collapse, building in danger of collapse if there were a heavy snowfall.

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- Stated that the building is structurally deficient.
- Stated that the Murray report said that no part of the existing building dated any earlier than the 1850's.
- Stated that the BOS was reviewing a 1998 report received after the August 5, 2021 working meeting with BID.
- Stated that this report from 1998 would not be available until it could be digitized.
- Stated that the BOS has not received any information about the new Amazon facility on Moore Rd., but said that BOS and the township had no information on this business development as of October 19, 2021.
- There was no formal response from the BOS to the formal voted and approved requests from the HC concerning the contents of the Murray & Associates report or about working with members of the community interested in saving the Moore-Irwin house on the Moore-Irwin property.

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

- Dave Dolga waiting for response from GMCA representative.

6) Rebel Hill PHMC marker project—no updates since September meeting.

7) List of 20 historical properties in Upper Merion Township for advisement to BOS from the Historical Commission:

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

New Business:

- 1) Link sent to apply for Saving Places sponsored by National Trust for Historic Preservation https://savingplaces.org/americas-most-endangered-historic-places?utm_medium=email&utm_source=update&utm_campaign=11%20most#.YYrVlb3MLjEfrom

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Laura, seconded by Matt. All were in favor, motion to adjourn passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 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) Document Management for HC on UMT server—tabled till Spring 2022

Pat Jordan – 12-30-21