

Upper Merion Township Historical Commission January Minutes

Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 7:00 pm

Location: Henderson Room, Upper Merion Township Bldg (HYBRID)

Zoom Meeting ID: 854 8056 3647

Passcode: 906958

1. Call to Order 7:05 PM

2. **Attendance:** Laura Adlington, Greg Philips, Tina Smith, David Dolga, Pat Jordan, Matthew McCaffery

Regrets: Kenn Brown, Planning Commission Liaison

3. December 2022 Minutes Approved 4-0

4. Old Business

A. UMT's List of Historic Properties – Discussion of the survey form

- i. Discussion about the Tredyffrin Form
- ii. Laura sent out the Tredyffrin documents to everyone for feedback
- iii. Will discuss this topic next month

B. Recruitment (for new members including student members)

- i. Greg will ask the school board to announce vacancy at the School Board
- ii. Greg informed us applicant didn't show for interview

C. PHMC Markers for Rebel Hill and Gulph Mills Encampment / BCA Application

- i. Matt needs to get new mason quote for BCA grant
- ii. Tina asked to table Rebel Hill History/Encampment PHMC Marker project
- iii. Greg updated the group on the Powell house asked from Pat
- iv. Dave Dolga updated the group on coordinates of marker for Gulph Mills
- v. Laura inquired about data storage of our data and website

1. Dave Will circle back with IT

D. America 250 PA

- i. Matt updated the group on meeting with VF Alliance next month
- ii. Laura mentioned inviting Cassandra Coleman from PA250
- iii. Tina mentioned we should send out a letter to other Upper Merion Citizens Commissions and Boards as well as neighboring Historical Societies to begin to communicate ideas, plans, and opportunities for collaboration.

E. Moore-Irwin House

- i. The Murray & Associates Report and other reports were recently placed on the UMT website. Use the search tool for topic "Moore Irwin" to find these documents.
- ii. The new SEPTA rail line will end at First Ave near the Valley Forge Hotel. At that location, a 600 car-parking garage is proposed. The Linear Trails developed with KofP BID will extend on both sides of Moore Rd. and go by the Moore-Irwin house.
- iii. Greg said that the BOS has been very active in reaching out to businesses but businesses were not interested because they did not see an ROI.

- iv. Greg stated that another issue is that they are not convinced the current structure is truly an historic building other than the Brognard Okie additions. The Moore property covered over 500 acres and there were multiple houses so the current Moore-Irwin house may not have been the house used by Muhlenberg, Washington or any other founding father.
- v. Greg explained that as a Second Class Township, Upper Merion could create historic districts. That would require a “review entity” and setting up a board for reviews. Greg further explained that the entities could be created by UMT in two ways: by a Resolution or by an Ordinance. Per UMT Solicitor’s advice, the UMT citizens’ commissions were created by a Resolution. Greg said he did not think it was the intention of the BOS to set up a review board when creating the Historical Commission.

5. New Business

- A. No new business
- B. Resend Megan McNish invite to BOS


6. Items Tabled Until Next Meeting

- A. Diversity Project with UMT Library
- B. PHMC Grant for document scanning and storage
- C. Oral History Project
- D. Historical Commission’s web page content (articles)
- E. Historical interest displays/speaker project partnership with Parks and Rec Department/Library for Fall
- F. GMCA plaque funding

7. Communications

- A. Tina - National Alliance of Preservation Commissions upcoming webinar email sent to the team
- B. Tina- Dave Montalvo, President of the King of Prussia Historical Society, is willing to schedule a tour for Upper Merion Historical Commission along with students of Upper Merion Area School District (UMASD) High School in the Summer of 2023

8. Adjournment

X 

Laura W. Adlington, PhD
Chair, Upper Merion Historical Commission