



**Upper Merion Township Historical Commission
Minutes – July Meeting**

Date: Tuesday, July 18, 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** – 7:03
2. **Attendance** – Pat Jordan, Matthew McCaffery, Laura Ware Aldington, Tina Smith, Kenn Brown, David Dolga, Guests Students from UMAHS Gus and Ricard
 - A. Special guest: Rose Fennell, VFNP Superintendent
3. **Approval of June 2023 Minutes** – Moved to August Meeting (Matt forgot to send them out)
4. **Old Business**
 - A. America250PA
 - i. Brainstorm/discuss ideas with Rose Fennell
 1. Rose gave rundown of objective of NPS for America 250A
 - a. NPS is looking to have a cooled down version of America 250
 - i. Philly can have the pomp and circumstance
 - b. Drill Demo from Army, ROTC, Veterans
 - c. 50th anniversary of the VFNP coming up in 2026
 - i. 50 years since the State of PA gave property to the NPS
 2. Looking for federal dollars to spruce up the park prior to 250
 3. Working to incorporate the “first nations” native to the area
 4. VFNP is looking to incorporate ride share to the park during events. Rose has reached out to Greater Valley Forge Trans Demand Management (Rob Henry)
 5. 2027 – March into Valley Forge December 2027
 6. Connecting the trails to Valley Forge Park – Dave will provide the superintendent with Public Works and Public Safety
 7. Rose is looking to form a coalition of local stakeholders for the America 250
 - a. Upper Merion Historical Commission made it know that it wants to help
 8. Rose would like to incorporate Conestoga Wagons into the 250 celebration
 - a. Pat will reach out to Radnor Historical Commission
 - B. AMH Presentations, sponsored by HC and Library
 - i. Update on talk with Sangeetha Srinivasan
 - ii. Saturdays at 2PM, Freedom Hall. March 2, 2024 and November 9, 2024
 - iii. The Library will work with Pat on marketing and publicity
 - C. Miscellaneous township items this fall:
 - i. UMT’s Community Fair and Fall Festival, October 7, 2023. Does HC need to submit a registration form and fee

1. Dave will get us the information from the township to the Commission
- ii. Nor-View Farm - will Saturdays in October still be "Octoberfest"

1. Dave informed the Commission that registration would be FREE for us

D. UMT's List of Historic Properties – Advisement to BOS - Tabled

- i. Status update and planned tours to fill in gaps

5. New Business

- A. None

6. Items Tabled

A. Temporarily Tabled (Until Next Meeting)

- i. Historical interest displays/speaker project partnership with Parks and Rec Department/Library for Fall
- ii. Displays for Community Center, Township Building
- iii. New Member Recruitment
- iv. Historical Commission Webpage (especially, Content)

B. Long-Term Tabled

- i. PHMC Markers for Rebel Hill and Gulph Mills Encampment
- ii. CLG Application
- iii. Oral History Project
- iv. Street names resource for future developments

7. Communications

- A. Historical Commission members emphasized they want to help the NPS with America 250 events

8. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Tina, seconded by Pat - 8:22 PM



Laura W. Adlington, PhD
Chairperson, UMT Historical Commission
September 19, 2023