



**Upper Merion Township Historical Commission  
Agenda – August Minutes**

Date: Tuesday, August 15, 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 PM**

**2. Attendance:**

**Present:** Laura Adlington, Tina Smith, Pat Jordan, Matt McCaffery, Dave Dolga, Greg Philips, Student guest, Rich

**Regrets:** Kenn Brown

**3. Approval July 2023 Minutes – Motion by Tina, seconded by Pat**

A. June minutes postponed

**4. Old Business**

A. Budget for 2024

i. NAPC membership was paid in June - Thank you!

ii. Dave informed the group that the following Items have been APPROVED:

1. Banner (\$65) for long-term use. Don Herbert said wait til logo approved by UMT

2. Craft supplies (\$40) - construction paper, crayons, stapler, scissors - for long-term use

3. Printing for coloring activity page (\$40)

iii. Dave submitted budget request to Geoff Hickman for the Historical Presentations for 2024 that will be co-sponsored with Upper Merion Library on March 2, 2024 and Nov. 9, 2024

B. America250PA

i. Update on outreach to other UMT commissions, local historical societies, groups

1. Pat reached out to the Radnor Historical Society (RHS) about their Conestoga Wagon being used at Valley Forge National Park (VFNP) for America 250. Pat also informed the group that RHS would be glad to talk with VFNP about the America 250 planning with VFNP

2. Pat updated the group about her attendance of State Senator Cappelletti's "Kid Fest" event at Elmwood Zoo

ii. Update on AMH presentations for 2024

1. Dave informed the group this has been approved

C. UMT's List of Historic Properties – Advisement to BOS

i. Pat presented information about the Powell House

ii. Greg informed the HC that the BOS is discussing the purchase of the Powell House, since it's for sale...These discussions are preliminary in nature

- iii. Discussing Christ Episcopal Church (Old Swedes Church) in Upper Merion, Laura noted that the church is not on the National Register due to the replaced steeple.
- iv. HC would like to research if the graveyard could be listed, and also if any requirements for National Registry have changed re: the church building.
  - 1. Greg suggested contacting the Episcopal Diocese of Philadelphia to see if this is something that would be agreed upon
  - 2. Laura noted that listing on the National Register could open up more funding sources for repair
- v. Tina is organizing the information for HC to review for the advisement to BOS regarding the Moore-Irwin property
  - 1. Greg said that after looking at the older documents and related studies, the supervisors are not clear whether this is actually the house.
  - 2. Greg stated that the Moore property had 500 acres, and there was more than one house

#### D. Update: New Member Recruitment

- i. Gus and Rich from Upper Merion Area High School are awaiting approval from the Board of Supervisors.
  - 1. Rich informed the group that he will be reaching out to the school news paper in order to get an article in the school's paper about the Commission
  - 2. Pat suggested an article on students involvement with various UMT commissions, and offered to pursue getting a reporter for this

#### E. Historical Commission Webpage

- i. Dave informed the group he would follow-up with IT to see when we could expect to get articles that had been submitted published
- ii. Greg stated that the webpage and articles needed to be kept relevant, updated, curated

### 5. New Business

- A. Decide date to schedule tour of King of Prussia Inn
  - i. Matt will coordinate with the group offline
- B. Fall Festivals
  - i. October 7th, Upper Merion Township's Community Fair and Fall Festival at Heuser Park
    - 1. Matt will send in the registration form for the Historical Commission
    - 2. Greg recommended contacting the VFNP to see if their gift shop would like to attend the Fall Festival
      - a. Laura will reach out to Rose
  - ii. Fall Fun Festival at Nor-View (Oct, 14, 21, 28)
    - 1. Discussion on possible date—Oct 21st works best
    - 2. Costumes with Am250 as a theme? Games?
    - 3. Dave mentioned that Commissions could sponsor events at Nor-View (e.g. hayride, pumpkin patch) and that would place the sponsor table at the event
    - 4. HC would need to let Dave know soon

### 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
- 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. Greg stated that the UMT Police Department will be celebrating a “milestone” anniversary in the next few years (2025?)
  - i. Greg suggested that the HC might want to get started on a history of the Police Department
- B. Tina updated the group on the NAPC
- C. Pat – Asking if we want to pursue the displays, in the township building, about the top historical properties or a display of local cemeteries for Halloween
  - i. Pat volunteered to take photos of cemeteries [at timestamp 1:05:16]

## 8. **Adjournment – 8:10 PM**



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