



**Upper Merion Township Historical Commission
Minutes – September 19, 2023 Meeting**

Date: Tuesday, September 19, 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

2. Attendance:

Present: Laura Adlington, Pat Jordan, Tina Smith, Matt McCaffrey, Dave Dolga, Kenn Brown, Rich Herman

Regrets: Greg Philips

3. Approval of June 2023 Minutes: Motion made by Pat, seconded by Tina. All in favor to approve; Motion passed.

Approval of August 2023 Minutes: Motion made by Laura seconded by Matt. All in favor to approve; Motion passed.

4. Old Business

A. Budget for 2024

i. Approval process update for America250PA AMH presentations, 2024, with UM Library

1. Dave Dolga replied that the budget would be submitted in a BOS workshop, probably approved in November.
2. This item can be moved to “Temporarily Tabled” section until November 2023 meeting for October Agenda

B. America250PA

- i. Update on outreach to other UMT commissions, local historical societies, groups
 1. Laura updated the group and is going to follow-up
 2. Tina will provide the list that we have
 - a. Historical Society Gazette will be publishing a blurb about 250 PA
- ii. Update on networking and planning with VFNP
- iii. Update: Schedule meeting with Am250PA committee

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

- i. Identify any target dates for M-I advisement, then others in the top 10?
- ii. Moore-Irwin Property/ Moore Rd. Multi-Modal Trail approval for BID’s Planning
 1. Laura – Presented the idea of using MI as a destination for the trail
 2. KPMU Mixed use definition – Dave will provide
- iii. Powell House
 1. Information about Powell House submitted to UMT and now posted on UMT website under the Historical Commission listing

iv. Christ Church (Old Swedes, Upper Merion)

1. Help Church get a National Registry designation

- a. Tina suggested that the HC could submit a Determination Of Eligibility (DOE) on the Church's behalf if they agree
- b. PHMC DOE is the first step for listing on the National Registry of Historic Places

D. Update: New Member Recruitment

E. Historical Commission Webpage

i. Articles—need to curate articles, release schedules

1. Pat discussed the idea of rotating responsibilities writing articles
2. Pat said she was interested in writing a short article on the historic cemeteries in Upper Merion (relates to Item G)
3. Dave reminded the HC that the idea of articles each month, keep in mind that they need to be approved by BOS, and to plan a lead time of a month from submission to approval.
4. Dave said that the AMH article [commemorative booklet from the PHMC marker event ?] submitted to PIO was not the final copy.
5. Dave also suggested that the October Display case information on Historic Cemeteries of Upper Merion could be put together for a web page article.
6. Pat said she would put some photos of cemeteries on shared drive so HC could add some brief content for the display case
7. Articles to prep for next year: Moore Irwin house--Tina; King of Prussia Inn—ask Ryan and HC could co-author; AMH house—Pat; Exley Log Cabin—Laura; Maurice Stephens House—ask Molly from VFA

F. Fall Festivals—updates

i. Oct 7—UMT at Heuser Park

1. Matt has table, tent and chairs

- a. Matt will follow-up with Paige about cost of the space.

ii. Oct 21—Fall Fun Festival at Nor-View

iii. Art supplies—to be ordered for Tri-corn hats

G. Displays for Township Building

- i. Follow up on availability of display cases for October – Dave informed the Group that space has been authorized
- ii. If wall space used: materials, photos, printing and mounting costs
- iii. Photos of UMT historic cemeteries, graveyards with brief descriptions – Laura and Pat will be venturing to take photos, need to submit to BOS for approval

5. New Business

A. Updates from HC tour of King of Prussia Inn

- i. Matt visited TopGolf about fundraising for upkeep of the building
- ii. Pat took photos that day, put together a “story board” of our tour
- iii. Add this tour to an article about HC
- iv. Tina will follow-up with Ryan from the chamber on possible funding sources for KoP Inn, for needed repairs

B. Research status for history of UMT Police Department's milestone anniversary

- i. Pat called MontCo Historical Society about the history of Upper Merion Police Department
- ii. Pat wondered if BOS might approve a subscription for the township to Newspapers.com
- iii. Rich asked what the date for the Police Department founding was; which anniversary
- iv. Research done prior to meeting did not give a clear date, resources were limited
- v. Suggestion to reach out to local colleges and UMA high School to see if research, writing might be of interest
- vi. Rich asked what topics HC might want students to research and write about—Laura noted any topic relating to UMT and that it doesn't have to be before the 1900's
- vii. Laura stated that HC could come up with a starter list of topics and Rich said he would find out what students might be interested in researching
- viii. Rich is interested in researching the article on the UMT Police Department

6. Items Tabled

- A. Temporarily Tabled (Until Next Meeting)
 - i. Historical interest displays/speaker project partnership with Parks and Rec Department/Library for Fall
- 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. Tina – reminder of upcoming NACP webinar on Oct 12
- B. Announcement about Tree planting at Washington Chapel
- C. Pat – French Family research in relation to request about the land Pharmaceutical company
- D. Dave reported on the expected design and information for the banner from PIO
- E. Pat mentioned she was Carrie Chapman Catt for the return of the Justice Bell at Washington Chapel—story for HC article--

8. Adjournment –

Tina made a motion to adjourn; Matt seconded. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned 9:01 PM



Laura W. Adlington, PhD
Chairperson, UMT Historical Commission
January 16, 2024