

Lower Makefield Township Historical Commission

Minutes of Meeting: 3/13/2024

Meeting opened by Joe Camarata at 7:35 pm in the Meeting Room of the Township Building and also on zoom by computer. All members present except: Chris Greeley, Lisa Pellagrino, Victor Fiore and Supervisor Suzanne Blundi, and our “grant writer/volunteer extraordinaire” Monica Hinden.

Minutes of previous meetings without a quorum present moved by Jeff to be approved, Tom seconded, unanimous.

Treasurer’s report presented by Tom Argenteri: “LMT Historical Commission Foundation” audit (FYE 6/30/23) finalized by auditors. Audited balance at end of June was \$13,614. Since then, there were 2 deposits made totaling \$2,720 and two checks to reimburse members for the Ghost Tour for \$935.57. Total of current funds is \$15, 401.43.

LMT has budgeted this commission \$22,450 for this fiscal year: 2024. This money will count as matching funds for various grant proposals.

Discussion followed led by Tom and Monica Hinden on the status of projects at Slate Hill Cemetery. Grant applications have been submitted to the state for repairs and educational activities at Slate Hill and we hope to hear back on one in early April, June for the other. Official clean-up day will be May 4th rain date May 5th 10:00AM. Chief Coluzzi has advised the 3D lidar will be available May 11th,raindate May 18th. Victor has advising he is ordering the sign we approved last month this week.

The cemetery website is almost done and Monica presented the logo. Unanimously approved.

Discussion of National Registry Nomination followed, led by Joe and Helen. The SHPO has suggested we make two separate nominations for the property or explain why we wish to make only one. They also are not in favor of combining it with a new Edgewood Village nomination that may re-open and endanger the previous nomination done in 1979. We have agreed to proceed on a single nomination for the farm, and talk about the extension of the district further. The SHPO has agreed to visit to discuss on April 3rd at 1:00 PM. We will endeavor to include other commissions, BOS, local political officials as may wish to look at these choices.

Discussion followed of Historical Research Project led by Jeff Bedser and Joe C. They have two quotes on this project and need money approval before picking one group.

Discussion followed, led by Joe C. after some consultation with the Township manager Dave Kratzer, on a demolition Ordinance for Historic properties in LMT. Joe will disseminate several model ordinances from PA and NJ for HC members to view. There is much concern over what constitutes “historic” property or whether it applies to all houses in LMT.

Discussion followed on plans submitted to the HC that obviously includes an old historic house: the Watson House. View of this house and dump/ruins will be on March 22, 8:30 AM on Edgewood Road. Helen has been designated as HC representative, but all/anyone is welcome. Records indicate this was a frame house c. 1760, so the structure was coated in stucco at some point. It may be a 2 story log house such as seen in Chester County. Joe will comment.

Final discussion revolved around our recommendations to the township for the celebration of 2026. Please reflect and come to the next meeting with some suggestions on this. Meeting adjourned: 9:05 Next 4/10

Respectfully submitted for Chris Greeley,

Helen Heinz