

## Lower Makefield Township Historical Commission

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Minutes of Meeting: 02-12-2025

Members present at the meeting or on Zoom:

Cathy, Jeff, Jim, Dave, Tom, Helen, Monica, Mitch, Joe on Zoom, and Dawn as audience. Not in Attendance: Victor.

We started with a training at 7:00 pm, and Helen discussed the colonial public roads available for large troop movements in 1776. This research was available working backward from the 1798 map of LMT done by this Commission in 1992 by Ralph Thompson and Helen Heinz and assisted by Paul Rhoads as well as Road Opening Dockets Book at the Spruance Library examined in January 2021 by Helen and Joe Camarrata. Many commonly used roads today were not more than horse trails with gated fences in 1776. We discussed the official procedures for how they were laid out and speculated which ones were likely used by the troops passing through LMT in Dec- Jan. 1776-77. This information is essential to planning for projects in 2026 and counts for the commission's general education credits.

The meeting started at 7:34, called to order by Cathy. Previous meeting notes were reviewed and approved unanimously by a motion from Mitch, seconded by Tom.

Tom presented the treasurer's report explaining the two separate funds available to this Commission: the Foundation Fund with \$16,669.00+change and the General Fund with \$18,654.00+change. Joe pointed out that that did not include the new fiscal year starting, and Tom will update with that information next month.

Jeff discussed the status of the Historical Resource Survey. The contracts are due to be signed next week, 2/19/2025.

Discussion of the Demolition Ordinance status followed—reviewed by the Bucks County Planning Commission. Minor changes are possible, including perhaps an overlay.

Update on Demolitions in LMT:

“The Point,” was approved by the BOS after HARB approved it

Wright's Farm, we are waiting for a site visit to be scheduled.

Members reviewed 743 River Road/Justice House, and a report was submitted to Jim M to be passed on to the realtors. It was summarized by the necessary concern for an accurate and qualified list of properties. T

The project on township materials is still progressing. We are now at the point of acquiring the proper materials for storage and preservation and migrating computer programs.

The Slate Hill Cemetery committee, under Monica, has concerns about the high ivy-covered trees. The recommendation is the gradual removal of high trees. LIDAR was tremendously useful, and genealogy continues. The next step towards grave repair is RFPS.

Jim and Mitch are working on possible merchandising for SHC. He also presented a letter of interest from the social studies director at Pennsbury, which Monica will follow up on.

America 250, Mitch presented meeting schedules and ideas from the county group meeting he attended. A discussion followed with ideas for our township participation and ideas for memorializing a re-enactment, houses, stories, people, and perhaps a race—still too far out.

Helen gave a summary of the progress with the National Registry Property. Joe is tasked with creating graphs of crops, livestock, market values, etc. for these farms compared to similar nearby farms through the 3 – 4 periods of significance for agriculture. No other business.

Jeff made the motion to adjourn, Tom seconded, and it was unanimous. Adjourned

Next meeting: March 12, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Helen Heinz, Secretary