

Lower Makefield Township Historical Commission

Minutes of Meeting: 05-14-2025

Members present at the meeting started or were on Zoom at 7:32 pm. Cathy, Jim, Jeff, Helen, Mitch, Monica, Tom, Dawn, On Zoom: Victor, Joe, missing: Dave, and our BOS liaison were not there.

First item: approval of previous minutes –motion to accept: Mitch, Jeff seconded, unanimous.

Regular agenda started by Cathy. Tom reported his treasurer's account, showing expenses for LIDAR mapping. Discussion followed on educational items and Community Fund balances.

1. Implementation of the Historic Buildings enumeration started. Elizabeth from SHPO will enter all data to PA share from a spreadsheet that Jeff M is producing.
2. Joe wants to speak about the historic significance of architecture, to be presented in June. A discussion followed on the levels of architectural "disturbance" and authenticity.
3. Demolition Ordinance. The status is unclear, and the level of frustration with the political process is evident among all. Feedback has been received from Bucks County, and no action has been taken yet on their comments by the Board of Supervisors (BOS).
4. A discussion followed on several new preservation issues that are upcoming. An action item proposed by Tom is that two members of this commission shall report to the BOS at every public meeting on items of concern. Mitch and Helen are up first at the 1st June meeting.
5. Cataloging of township items. Discussion led by Dawn on progress made, and prospect of starting the Past Perfect cataloging.
6. Slate Hill discussion led by Monica. The date for the October event is set. The LIDAR map should be available soon. The contract was approved by BOS, and it came back low, so there is room to add work. That would require a return to the Board of Supervisors.
 - 6A. Master plan for Slate Hill- We reviewed the 25- 27 plan. Includes new QR codes and additional interpretation. Work with the township on trees. We have identified 4 ivy-covered over 40 ft. tall trees that must be carefully removed this year. Victor had a tour with Sav A Tree, and we will share that information with the township to plan for future tree removal. Motion by Tom to inform the township of the additional tree concerns of this. 2nd by Jeff, unanimously approved. Work will be done to self-fund most projects through Ghost Tour and possibly other events. We had a great clean-up day on May 3.
7. Open House: Reported good turnout at our Saturday event. Displayed our latest acquisition of the 1858 Hughes Map of the township.
8. Patterson Farm is still a bit held up on aerial photography and agricultural census—will work on it in June.
9. America 250 Mitch is taking point on this. We have several activities planned for November, but we need some public outreach earlier in the year. Special flags? Map of existing roads? Educational time capsule? Passport-like baseball cards?
10. Helen raised the issues of the demolition of Reading Beatty's house and that the Octagonal School House lot has been sold.
11. No public Comment. Motion to adjourn, Mitch, Tom 2nd. Approved.

12. Next meeting June 11th @ 7:30.

Respectfully submitted Dr. Helen Heinz