

## Wrightstown Township Historical Commission

### Minutes

6 March 2025

**Call to Order:** Chair Betty Davis called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

#### **Present:**

Members: Betty Davis, chair; Mary Lee Johnson, Beverly Wilson, Jane DelBianco (left at 2:10), Karl Niederer

Guest: Jane Magne, Township Supervisor

**Agenda:** Additions and Changes - None.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Commission VOTED to approve the minutes of the 2 January 2025 meeting. The Commission VOTED to approve the minutes of the 6 February 2025 meeting with a correction (John Behrle donated the copy of the book *Colonial Inns and Taverns of Bucks County* by Marie Murphy Duess).

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

1. Treasurer Jane DelBianco reported that the current balance in the WTHC's budget account is \$570.71, reflecting payment of \$35.00 to Joanna Krasnansky for framing services and \$144.29 to Doylestown Glass Co. for the initial storm window insert for the Octagonal School. The WTHC's savings account balance is \$9,264.11. **The Commission VOTED to accept the report.** See ATTACHMENT A.
2. The Commission discussed how to pay Doylestown Glass Co. for producing the remaining six (6) storm windows for the Octagonal School, an \$865.74 expense approved by the Township Supervisors. **The Commission VOTED that the windows be invoiced to Mary Lee Johnson, and that she be reimbursed by the Township for the expense.**

#### **Old Business:**

1. **Placing Prints in Township Building**—Karl Niederer reported that he will complete the captions for items displayed in the public meeting room in the near future.
2. **Mega Way Development History**—Beverly Wilson and Jane Magne will interview Mega Way resident Sandy Arnold here today at 3:00 p.m.
3. **Quaker History Exhibit**—Karl Niederer reported that he and Betty Davis had met on 7 February with Lois Wilson and Nancy Culleton at Wrightstown Quaker Meetinghouse to select artifacts and documents for our exhibit case. That day several new documents were discovered, apparently compiled by D. Watson Atkinson, among them 19th century items that may contribute to the story for the virtual exhibit. Betty requested that the physical exhibit be installed by the beginning of April.
4. **Octagonal School Roof Replacement Photo Album**—Karl Niederer gave a progress update on the photo album. Mary Lee Johnson will provide photos for the album of the

roof installed when the Township took ownership of the school in 1996, and Karl expand the introduction to the album to reference them. Jane Magne asked that George DiPersio of CKS Engineering be credited for developing contract and specifications for the 2024 roof replacement.

5. **Octagonal School Storm Windows**—Mary Lee Johnson gave a progress update on the installation of the new storm windows, which should occur during the next few weeks.
6. **Protecting Octagonal School Crawl Space**—Mary Lee Johnson reported on research into options for crawl space vent covers. Discussed were several alternative types of vent covers, such as a custom vent using an aluminum frame similar to that used for the storm windows, and screwing a steel grate to the existing wooden frame.
7. **Organizing and Scanning Commission Files**—Jane DelBianco reported. She asked to set aside time at April meeting to review some sample files to develop a sound approach to the project.
8. **WTHC Reports to Township Supervisors**—Jane Magne announced that the next Township Supervisors' meeting will be on Monday, 7 April; Karl Niederer and Betty Davis plan to attend and will report on recent activities of the Commission.

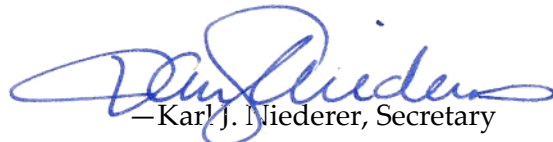
#### **New Business:**

1. **Octagonal School 2025 Open Houses**—Betty Davis opened discussion about planning special events and activities for our 2025 open houses. The first will be on 18 May. Suggestions included reprising the musical performance by the Deals and Stevenses, a children's games day, displays of early 19th century artifacts, and a program featuring preserved original deed books from the County Recorder's Office, as was done in 2019. Jane Magne urged that any special events be well-publicized.
2. **Early Documents from Bill Osler**—Jane Magne reported receiving from local resident Bill Osler a cache of discarded early documents he had rescued from the Gaines House (now the Fancy Fig) in Penns Park. Spanning the period 1901-23, they are a very miscellaneous collection including tax notices, bills, checks, rules for Wrightstown Quaker burial ground, many relating to Wycombe properties in Wrightstown and Buckingham townships. Osler has donated the documents to WTHC.
3. **Franklinia Tree for Octagonal School**—Bart Wilson will donate an Franklinia tree for the yard of the school to replace the one planted last year, which died.
4. **Community Day 2025**—Wrightstown Community Day is 17 May at the Grange Fairgrounds. WTHC should have a table/booth staffed by Commission members.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, 3 April 2025

**Adjournment:** 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
—Karl J. Niederer, Secretary

Wrightstown Twp Historical Comm  
March, 6, 2025

Supply Account Balance:

\$750.00

*Joanna Krasnansky Storming*  
*Storm window*

*85.00*

*144.29*

New Supply Account Balance

~~\$750.00~~

570.71  
*Corrected JED*

Savings account:

Current Balance:

\$9,263.32

Deposits: 0

Interest:

.79

Ending balance:

\$9,264.11