

Wrightstown Township Historical Commission

Minutes

1 May 2025

1:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Chair Betty Davis called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

Present:

Members: Chair Betty Davis, Beverly Wilson, Karl Niederer, and Mary Lee Johnson; Absent: Jane DelBianco. Guest: Jane Magne, Township Supervisor

Agenda: Additions and Changes - None.

Approval of Minutes: The Commission VOTED to approve the minutes of the 3 April 2025 meeting as presented.

Treasurer's Report - No report.

Old Business:

1. **Quaker History Exhibit** — Karl and Betty will install the exhibit by mid-May. Most documents and objects for display are here now; one remains to be picked up. Mary Lee will remove and return the Grange exhibit items to Scott Dengler before then.
2. **Wrightstown Community Day** — Event on 17 May, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Staffing assignments: Betty the entire time; Karl a shift from 9:00-11:00; Mary Lee possible; Beverly cannot. The Octagonal School birdhouse model will be brought to display.
3. **Octagonal School Open Houses** — The Commission discussed the following items regarding the 2025 season of Open Houses:
 - a. Karl will produce the traditional Open House invitation and schedule flyers for distribution; Karen Sadovy will print and cut the quarter-page versions.
 - b. Mary Lee reported she had advertised Open Houses in eight (8) local publications.
 - c. Spring clean-up/set up date: Wednesday, 7 May, 1:00-2:30; Betty, Mary Lee, Karl.
 - d. Open House Staffing Assignments:
 - Sunday, 18 May 1:00-3:00 shift: Mary Lee and Karl; 3:00-5:00 shift: Jane D. and Betty
 - Sunday, 15 June 1:00-3:00 shift: Mary Lee and Karl; 3:00-5:00 shift: Betty and Mary Lee (not confirmed)
 - Sunday, 20 July 1:00-3:00 shift: Karl and Jane D.; 3:00-5:00 shift: Betty and TBD.
4. **Octagonal School Crawl Space Protection** — Mary Lee reported having purchased two custom-sized, framed metal grates to cover the crawl space vents at a cost of \$56.47.
5. **Octagonal School Franklinia Tree** — Beverly reported her husband Bart and their son had planted a Franklinia tree in a different location on the school grounds on 26 April. The cost of the tree was \$74.20, donated by the Wilsons.

6. **Octagonal School other plantings** — Mary Lee agreed to take care of plantings by Eight-Square School sign and the potted plants flanking the entry door.
7. **Octagonal School Roof Replacement Photo Album** — No report.
8. **Bucks County Recorder's Office Deed Book preservation project** — Mary Lee met with staff at the Recorder's Office re project status. The office holds a monthly public event on project status. Recorder Dan McPhillips agreed to speak at the 21 September Open House, bringing some restored deed books relating to Wrightstown Township for display. Karl will confirm the invitation to McPhillips, suggesting topics for the books.
9. **Commission Report to Township Supervisors** — Karl did not attend the April 7 meeting. He will attend the next meeting at which commission reports will be received.
10. **Placing Prints in Township Building** — Karl will produce captions for the displayed items in the public meeting room.
11. **Mega Way Development History** — Jane Magne needs more information to complete the transcription of Sandy Arnold's interview.
12. **Organizing and Scanning Commission Files** — No report.
13. **Gaine House Documents** — The Commission discussed how to proceed with the donated documents and artifacts rescued from the Gaine House in Penns Park:
 - a. Karl will send a letter to William Osler thanking him for the donation.
 - b. The Commission will hold a work session on Thursday, 22 May, 9:30-11:30 a.m. to begin a detailed review of the Gaine documents at the Township Building.
 - c. Mary Lee contacted David B. Rowland, president of the Old York Road Historical Society, to determine their interest in selected items from the Gaine donation not related to Wrightstown Township. Mary Lee will forward copies of her correspondence with Rowland to attach to our meeting minutes; and will send Roland a photocopy of a letter in Gaine collection relating to Old York Road.

New Business:

1. **Octagonal School Open House Featured Programs** — Discussed possible featured events and activities. Karl will ask the Deals and Stevenses if they will present a musical program in July, September, or October. The Commission VOTED to offer an honorarium of \$100 for their presentation.

Next Meeting: Thursday, 5 June 2025

Adjournment: 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



—Karl J. Niederer, Secretary