

Wrightstown Township Historical Commission

Minutes

4 December 2025

Call to Order: Chair Betty Davis called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Chair Betty Davis, Mary Lee Johnson, Beverly Wilson (departed at 2:40 p.m.), and Karl Niederer. **Absent:** Jane DelBianco. Township Supervisor Jane Magne also did not attend.

Agenda: Additions and Changes - None.

Approval of Minutes: 6 November 2025 minutes APPROVED.

Treasurer's Report: Jane DelBianco submitted her report via email, stating that the Commission's budgeted supply account balance was \$1,000.00, and the savings account balance was \$9,704.26. (See Attachment A for detail.)

Old Business:

1. **Quaker History Exhibit** — No report presented.
2. **Octagonal School**—
 - a. **Fall clean out** — Completed on 12 November. Mary Lee mentioned that one of the school bells is missing; may be somewhere in the Commission's storage room.
 - b. **2026 Open House schedule** — Regular Open House dates in 2026 (third Sundays) are: 17 May, 21 June, 19 July, 16 August, 20 September, 18 October.
 - c. **Special Open House programs for 2026** — The Commission plans to host special programs in conjunction with most regular Open Houses, as follows:
 - **Octagonal Artistry:** show of local elementary school students' renderings of the Octagonal School - Tentative 17 May; Mary Lee coordinating. Mary Lee will initiate contact with Wrightstown Elementary School art teachers re participation.
 - **Wrightstown Brushstrokes:** show of adult artists' renderings of Wrightstown sites and scenes by Joanna Krasnansky and others - Tentative 21 June; Mary Lee coordinating; she will contact Joanna Krasnansky.
 - **The Gilded Quill:** penmanship and calligraphy demonstration and display of pen and ink hardware by Robert Hurford - Tentative 19 July; Mary Lee coordinating. Possible tie-in with USA 250th with facsimiles of Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution, originals by engrossers Timothy Matlack and Jacob Shallus.
 - **In Word and Deed:** Bucks County deed books display in cooperation with Bucks County Recorder of Deeds Office - Tentative 20 September; Karl coordinating.
 - **Tunes of the Times:** 19th Century music program by Stevens and Deals - Tentative 8 October; Karl coordinating.
 - d. **Security system upgrade** — Mary reported that the cost of an upgraded cellular system would be installation for \$175 plus \$19.95 monthly (\$239.40/year). After discussion, the consensus was to keep the existing system, changing batteries in operating fobs annually in May.
 - e. **Franklinia tree** — Appears to be surviving well; Bart Wilson checks its condition regularly.
 - f. **Parking solution** — Karl will arrange a meeting for the Commission members with Township Engineer Cindy Van Hise, to review proposed location and features of

Swamp Road parking lot adjacent to Octagonal School, prior to Twining Construction Company doing the installation.

3. **Commission Report to Township Supervisors** — No report presented to the Supervisors on 17 November.
4. **Wrightstown Historical Information Scanning Project** — Karl reported on progress by project volunteer Lisa Loeffler Fee. Bucks County historian and former Commission member Jeffrey Marshall will advise on project methodology and planning for presentation of project data and scans in the Township's web site. He will meet with Lisa, Betty, and Karl on 11 December.
5. **2025 Historical Commission meetings** — The Commission's list of regular meetings in 2026 has been filed with the Township for posting.
6. **Gaine documents donation to Old York Road Historical Society** — David B. Rowland, president of Old York Road Historical Society, sent a letter thanking the Commission for its gift of copied documents from the Gaine family collection relating to the 1921 Bryn Athyn train wreck (Wrightstown resident Mabel S. Gaine survived the wreck).

New Business:

- **Duane Smith donation of documents** — Wycombe resident Duane Smith donated sundry documents relating to the Wycombe property of his parents, Calvin and Anna Smith, including deeds (1950-57), a map, a right-of-way for PECO, and title insurance for a mortgage. Karl will prepare a letter thanking Mr. Smith for the donation.

Next Meeting: Thursday, 8 January 2026

Adjournment: 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



— Karl J. Niederer, Secretary