

Wrightstown Township Historical Commission

Minutes

8 January 2026

Call to Order: Chair Betty Davis called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Present Members and Guests: Chair Betty Davis, Mary Lee Johnson, Beverly Wilson (departed 2:45 p.m.), Jane DelBianco (arrived 2:45 p.m.), Karl Niederer. Guest: Jane Magne, Township Supervisor.

Agenda: Additions and Changes - None.

Approval of Minutes: 4 December 2025 meeting - Approved without change.

Treasurer's Report: Jane DelBianco submitted her report via email, stating that the Commission's budgeted supply account balance for 2026 was \$1,000.00, and the savings account balance forward was \$11,118.76. (See Attachment A for detail.)

Old Business:

1. Exhibit in Township Building —

a. The Commission plans to remove the Quaker exhibit from the case in the Township Building in June.

b. The Commission discussed several theme ideas for its 2026 exhibition, including:

- Display of deeds from WTHC collection with “then and now” photos
- Mills in the township: Rush Valley, Worthington, Chapmans, Lacey, etc.
- Other octagonal schools in southeastern Pennsylvania
- Local businesses in the township

The choice of theme and assignment of responsibility for planning and production will be made at the February meeting.

2. Octagonal School —

a. Special programs for 2026 — Updates

- *Octagonal Artistry*, (May) show of local school students' Octagonal School artwork - The Commission agreed that the scope of the display will be artwork on the Octagonal School interior and exterior. Mary Lee will contact Wrightstown Elementary School to determine the school's willingness to participate. Additional easels and tables will be needed for displaying the artwork.
- *Wrightstown Brushstrokes*, (June) show of artists' work on Wrightstown-related topics - Mary Lee has reached out to Joanna Krasnansky re her participation, but so far without response. She will also contact the Bucks County Art League, Kay King, Alex Cohen, April Bohmler, Doylestown Art League, and the Arts and Cultural Council of Bucks County regarding participation. The Commission will decide on the scope and focus of the artwork to be shown, after Mary Lee has contacted the aforementioned persons and organizations in the artist community.
- *The Gilded Quill*, (July) penmanship and calligraphy demonstration, and USA 250th celebration - Mary Lee will contact Robert Hurford to confirm the July date for this featured event.
- *In Word and Deed*, (September) Bucks County deed books display - Karl will contact

- the Bucks County Recorder of Deeds Office to confirm participation in September.
- *Tunes of the Times*, (October) 19th Century music program - Karl will contact musicians Bob and Marti Stevens, and Forest and Nancy Deal to confirm participation in October.
- b. Parking solution — The Commission awaits response from Township Engineer Cindy VanHise to set a date for a site visit to determine the optimum location for visitor parking near the Octagonal School. The Commission reviewed a diagram showing the original proposed location of the parking area. Karl will notify the Commission members when a date for the site visit is confirmed.
3. **Commission Report to Township Supervisors** — Karl presented a summary of the Commission’s current and future activities to the Board of Supervisors on 15 December. Jane Magne will notify Karl if a report to the Board is desired in January.
 4. **Wrightstown Historical Information Scanning Project** —
 - a. Jeffrey Marshall visit — Karl reported that Jeffrey Marshall, Bucks County historian and former member of the Commission, witnessed a demonstration of WHISP by Lisa Fee on 11 December. Impressed, Mr. Marshall said the project places Wrightstown at the forefront of Bucks municipalities sharing their local history data with citizens.
 - b. General progress review — Karl reported that WHISP progress continues steadily thanks to the diligence and consistent work of project technician Lisa Fee.
 5. **Duane Smith donation of documents** — Chair Betty Davis signed a letter of thanks to Wrightstown resident Duane Smith donating of documents relating to his parents’ former property in Wycombe village (1950-57). (See Attachment B.)

New Business:

1. **Election of Commission officers for 2026** — The Commission nominated and voted unanimously to elect the following officers for 2026:
 - Betty Davis, chair
 - Mary Lee Johnson, vice-chair
 - Jane Del Bianco, treasurer
 - Karl Niederer, secretary
2. **Oxford Valley Octagonal School site visit** — Commission members have an opportunity to visit the site of the Oxford Valley Octagonal School in Lower Makefield Township with Robert Craig, author of the article “Oxford Valley and the Origin of the Eight-Square School House” (1990) in *Mercer Mosaic*. Site visit date to be determined. Betty, Mary Lee, and Karl indicated interest in participating.

Next Meeting: Thursday, 5 February 2026

Adjournment: 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



—Karl J. Niederer, Secretary

ATTACHMENT A, Historical Commission Minutes, 8 January 2026

Wrightstown Twp. Historical Comm - Treasurer's Report
January, 2026
January 8, 2026

Supply Account Balance: \$1,000.00

Savings account:

Current Balance:	\$11,116.90
Interest:	1.86
Ending balance:	11,118.76

The savings account includes the:
George Donat Memorial Gift

1,300.00



WRIGHTSTOWN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

2203 SECOND STREET PIKE, WRIGHTSTOWN, PA 18940

8 January 2026

Mr. Duane Smith
844 Cherry Lane
P.O. Box 131
Wycombe, PA 18980

Dear Mr. Smith:

The Wrightstown Township Historical Commission acknowledges with gratitude your recent donation of historical documents relating to the property of your parents, Calvin and Anna Smith, in Wycombe.

Your history-minded thoughtfulness is evident in the fact that you recognized the significance of these items, and chose to donate them to the Historical Commission for proper disposition and preservation as documentation of our local history. We greatly appreciate this.

The Commission has begun to review the collection—an eclectic assortment of items including some deeds, a map, a right-of-way for PECO, and title insurance for a mortgage on the property. Please let us know if you are interested in having an itemized list of the documents.

Once again, the Commission thanks you sincerely for your dedication to preserving the history of our community through this donation.

With every good wish for your success and good health in the coming year, I am

Yours, sincerely

Betty Davis
Commission Chair

cc: Jane B. Magne, Township Supervisor