

## Wrightstown Township Historical Commission

Minutes

5 March 2026

1:00 p.m.

**Call to Order:** Chair Betty Davis called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Present Members and Guests:** Chair Betty Davis, Mary Lee Johnson, Beverly Wilson (departed at 2:15), and Karl Niederer. Absent: Jane DelBianco. Guests: Jane Magne, Township Supervisor; and Robert and Jeanne Hurford, Wrightstown residents (Mr. Hurford is a presenter at the July Octagonal School Open House).

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

**Approval of Minutes:** 5 February 2026 meeting minutes approved without change.

**Treasurer's Report:** None presented.

### Old Business:

#### 1. Exhibit in Township Building —

- a. Choice of 2026 exhibit theme and assignment of planning and production
  - *Display of deeds from WTHC collection with “then and now” photos* — This topic was chosen for our 2026 exhibit. Betty and Mary Lee will select original deeds from our collection for display, whose location in the township can be confirmed by research. They will coordinate with WHISP volunteer Lisa Fee to scan available research files and graphics relating to each property for the exhibit. Karl agreed to assist with the final display production and installation of the exhibit.
- b. The Commission decided to hold the following themes for exhibits in the future:
  - *Mills in the township: Rush Valley, Worthington, Chapmans, Lacey, etc.*
  - *Other octagonal schools in Delaware Valley region*
  - *Local businesses in the township*

#### 2. Octagonal School—

- a. Special programs for 2026 — Mary Lee and Karl presented a finished poster advertising the 2026 season of five (5) feature programs for the Octagonal School Open Houses (see Attachment A). Mary Lee will distribute the poster to cultivate local media attention of coverage of all the following programs:
  - *Octagonal Artistry*, (May) local school students Octagonal School artwork show — Mary Lee reported that Wrightstown Elementary art teacher Melissa Miguelez will invite students to display their creativity in artworks inspired by the schoolhouse. The school may lend display substrates for setting up the students’ art show in the schoolhouse. Robert Hurford offered to inscribe the children’s names on the certificates of participation to be presented by the Township Supervisors in June.
  - *Wrightstown Brushstrokes*, (June) show of adult artists’ work on Wrightstown sites — Mary Lee reported having visited the schoolhouse with the three participating artists: Kay King, Trisha Vergis, and April Ann Bohmler. Enthusiastic about the program, the artists hope to paint the school *plein air* on the day of the Open House if weather permits. They ask if they may: (1) paint the school property on site before the Open House, and (2) sell their work at the event. Mary Lee will

reconnect with the artists to confirm how many artworks will fit in available space, and decide on best methods and equipment for displaying them.

- *Pen & Ink*, (July) penmanship and calligraphy demonstration, and USA 250th celebration — Mary Lee introduced Robert Hurford, calligrapher and penmanship historian, and his wife Jeanne, and discussed planning and scheduling for his program on the history of American penmanship. He agreed to meet Betty and Mary Lee at the Octagonal School later this month to review space and set-up options. Mr. Hurford will present his talks and demonstrations every half-hour during the Open House. He agreed to incorporate into his presentation the story of calligrapher Timothy Matlack and engrossing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, a full-size facsimile of which will be displayed as Wrightstown's observance of the nation's 250th anniversary.
  - *In Word and Deed*, (September) Bucks County deed books display — Karl reported the County Recorder of Deeds Office has confirmed participation.
  - *Tunes of the Times*, (October) 19th Century music program — Karl reported the Deals and Stevenses have confirmed their participation.
- b. Expanding media outreach for Open Houses — Mary Lee will expand publicity outreach to *The Cardinal* (<https://cardinalcommunitynews.com/>), a monthly publication called covering Doylestown and eastern Bucks County.
  - c. Parking solution — Karl and Jane Magne reported a delay in revising the parking area plan in accordance with our January site visit, due to snow cover preventing township engineer Cindy Van Hise from accessing the site to take measurements.
3. **Oxford Valley Octagonal School site field trip** — Karl confirmed Thursday, 12 March, 10:30 a.m., to visit the ruins of the schoolhouse with Robert Craig. Park at neighboring Lightbridge Academy, 1680 Big Oak Rd., Yardley, PA 19067.
  4. **Commission Report to Township Supervisors** — No report presented in February. Karl will update the Supervisors on Commission activities on Monday, 16 March.
  5. **Wrightstown Historical Information Scanning Project** — Volunteer Lisa Fee demonstrated the Digital Maps of Philadelphia interactive web site for mapping historic sites in the city <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/maps/mosaic/>, a possible model for our own future web presentation of WHISP information and photographs of historic places.

#### **New Business:**

- **Original Resolution Establishing Historical Commission** — Jane Magne requested a copy of the original resolution establishing the Commission. Mary Lee emailed a digital copy of Resolution No. 81, 13 March 1972, to Jane and to Karl, along with Margaret Perry's first appointment to the Commission, 15 March 1972 (see Attachments B and C).

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, 2 April 2026

**Adjournment:** 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



— Karl J. Niederer, Secretary



# Open House 2026 Season FEATURE PROGRAMS

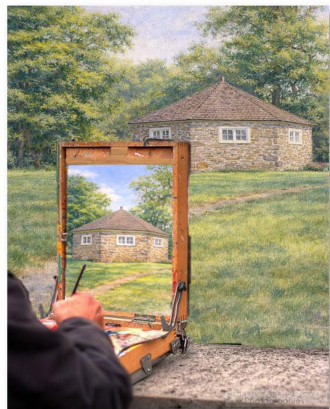
SCHOOL ADDRESS: 2091 SECOND STREET PIKE, WRIGHTSTOWN, PA 18940 – ENTER PARKING VIA SWAMP ROAD



## Octagonal Artistry May 17, 2026 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

**Exhibition of Wrightstown Elementary school students' original artwork, featuring the 1802 Octagonal School**

Students of Wrightstown Elementary with an interest in local history and an artistic flair will display their creativity in works inspired by the 1802 eight-sided schoolhouse located just over one mile from their own school near Penns Park. Participating students will be recognized personally by the Township Board of Supervisors and Historical Commission for their contributions to local art and history. Led by art teacher Ms. Miguelez.



## WRIGHTSTOWN Brushstrokes

**June 21, 2026  
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Exhibition of Wrightstown artists**

Wrightstown artists April Ann Bohmler, Kay King, and Trisha Vergis display their passion for the richness and beauty of buildings, scenes and landscapes in our community with an exciting selection of some of their favorite original works. All three show frequently in juried exhibitions throughout the region. Visitors may see the artists at work as they paint *plein air* at the event, weather-permitting.

## Pen & Ink The History of American Penmanship

**July 19, 2026  
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Demonstration by Robert Hurford,  
and Wrightstown's USA 250th celebration**

Wrightstown resident Bob Hurford, calligrapher and penmanship historian, guides visitors through the teaching of penmanship in schools, and how it evolved into a uniquely American style and artform. Bob also demonstrates Spencerian-style ornamental penmanship and offhand flourishing. Celebrate with Wrightstown our nation's 250th by reading a facsimile of calligrapher Timothy Matlack's most famous work—the Declaration of Independence.



## IN & DEED WORD

**September 20, 2026  
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Wrightstown history in original Bucks County Deed Books**

The Wrightstown Township Historical Commission welcomes Bucks County Recorder of Deeds Robin Robinson for a live presentation and display of restored original deeds containing significant land transactions from Wrightstown history. Several years ago the County Recorder's Office pioneered the *Adopt-a-Book* program to salvage and restore Deed Books spanning 340 years left in poor condition with broken bindings, faded ink, stains, torn pages, and mold.

## TUNES of the TIMES October 18, 2026 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

**19th century children's, patriotic, and popular music,  
and hymns contemporary to the 1802 Octagonal School**

By popular demand, musicians and reenactors Marti and Bob Stevens of Fallsington and Nancy and Forest Deal of Titusville, NJ, return to Wrightstown for a third season. Enjoy 18th- and early 19th-century music from the time of the school's operation, 1802-1850. Celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary by joining in the singing of *The Defence of Fort McHenry* (1814) by Francis Scott Key, now known as *The Star-Spangled Banner*.



RESOLUTION NO. B1

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF WRIGHTSTOWN TOWNSHIP  
CREATING AN HISTORICAL COMMISSION

WHEREAS, many historical sites and buildings are located within the Township of Wrightstown;

AND WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Township of Wrightstown and its residents that such historical sites and buildings be preserved for this and future generations;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of Wrightstown Township as follows:

1. An Historical Commission is hereby established to be composed of five (5) members appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The terms of the five members initially appointed shall be as follows: Two shall serve until the second Monday in January, 1974 and Three shall serve until the second Monday in January, 1975. Their successors upon appointment shall serve for a term of two (2) years. All members of the Historical Commission shall be residents of Wrightstown Township.

2. The duties of the Historical Commission shall be as follows:

a. To give counsel and advice to the Board of Supervisors regarding the best ways to preserve historic buildings and sites within the Township.

b. To mark by proper monuments, tablets or markers historic buildings and sites and care for and maintain such markers and monuments.

c. To take any and all action necessary to locate, create interest in and preserve historical buildings and sites within the Township.

RESOLVED this 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1972.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WRIGHTSTOWN TOWNSHIP

BY: N. Rhine Fisher  
Chairman

ATTEST:

Doug F. Alcorn  
Secretary

WRIGHTSTOWN TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

*Office of the Secretary*  
MRS. ANDREW S. ALCORN JR.  
BOX 500  
WYCOMBE, BUCKS COUNTY, PA.  
18980  
215-598-3313 or 215-598-7325

March 15, 1972

Mrs. William Perry  
Rushland, Pennsylvania  
18956

Dear Mrs. Perry:

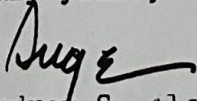
It is with pleasure that I inform you of your appointment to the newly created Historical Commission of Wrightstown Township. Formed under Resolution #81, dated March 13, 1972, the Board of Supervisors has appointed the following to be members of said commission:

Margaret Perry  
Beverly Wilson  
Helen Bailey  
Mary Trowbridge  
Norman Plummer

Your term will begin immediately and terminate on December 31, 1973. After initial appointment, all terms on the commission will be for 2 year service.

If I can be of any service to the creation of the commission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

  
(Mrs. Andrew S. Alcorn, Jr.)  
Secretary-Treasurer