

Wrightstown Township Historical Commission
Minutes
2 July 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, and Karl Niederer.
Absent: Jane DelBianco and Beverly Wilson. Guests: Wrightstown resident Bart Wilson (Beverly Wilson's husband) and Jane Magne, Township Supervisor.

Agenda: Added: the resignation of Commission member Beverly Wilson.

Resignation of Beverly Wilson: Bart Wilson presented and read Beverly Wilson's letter of resignation from the Historical Commission (see Attachment A). An original member of the Commission appointed in 1972, Beverly served faithfully for over 28 years (1972-1981, 2007-2026). Chair Betty Davis asked Karl to compose a letter of appreciation to Beverly on behalf of the Commission, and Jane Magne announced that she would recognize and honor Beverly for her service to Wrightstown Township at a meeting of the Supervisors in the near future.

Approval of Minutes: 4 June 2026 meeting minutes approved without change.

Treasurer's Report: No report presented. A discussion of expenses and budget needs followed.

1. Mary Lee announced reimbursements due to her totaling \$221.14 for Octagonal School June Open House supplies.
2. Discussed need for rented portable restrooms at future Open Houses. On motion (Karl), seconded (Mary Lee), the Commission voted to request budgeted funding from the Township to rent portable restrooms at future 2026 and 2027 Octagonal School Open Houses featuring special programs and guest presenters or performers; Open Houses that do not include feature programs may not require portable toilets.
3. Discussed need for rented tents at future Open Houses. Consensus (no motion) was that tents may be needed for some, but not all, feature programs; must decide on a case-by-case basis; will request \$400 for two (2) tent rentals during the 2027 Open House season.

Old Business:

1. **Exhibit in Township Building** — Mary Lee provided an update on planning for exhibition of original deeds from WTHC collection. She has matched an 1849 deed for what is now Painted Dreams Horse Farm on Park Avenue, tax parcel #53-002-096-001. No other deeds have been positively matched yet.
2. **Octagonal School** —
 - a. Open House feature programs for 2026 — Outcomes and planning updates:
 - *Wrightstown Brushstrokes*, (21 June) — Betty reported \$109 in receipts for sales of books, coverlet, etc., and registered attendance of 104. Artist Kay King donated an original painting of the Octagonal School door to the Commission. Letters thanking Kay and fellow artists Trisha Vergis and April Ann Bohmler have been sent (see Attachment B). Karl thanked volunteers Linda Grubb, Lisa and Craig Fee, and Jane Magne for help with registration and other duties.
 - *Pen & Ink*, (19 July) — Plans and preparations discussed included:
 - Mary Lee will provide a Windsor chair and small table inside the school for

Robert Hurford to use for his penmanship demonstrations.

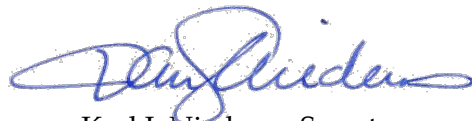
- George Krauter (Wrightstown) will perform the National Anthem on his saxophone, location and performance time(s) to be determined.
- Nancy Shill (New Hope) will perform music of the 1776 era on her fiddle and guitar, location and performance time(s) to be determined.
- Charles Feuer (Newtown Township) and Larry Magne (Wrightstown) will read the Declaration of Independence at different times during the event.
- Betty, Karl, and Mary Lee will staff the event from 1:00 to-5:00; Jane DelBianco will be away. Jane Magne agreed to attend the entire event as a volunteer. Additional volunteers will be sought to assist with the expected crowds.
- Betty suggested placing a desk and bench outside (weather-permitting) as furnishings to refer to during outdoor presentations on the history of the school.
- Polly's Ice Cream (Penns Park) will sell ice cream from a cart during the event. Commission consensus on ground rules for ice cream sales as follows: (1) Polly's cart will be placed about 75' from the school entrance near the bank of the dry stream bed, (2) Polly's must bring trash containers for any waste, and take trash away at the end, (3) a warning sign and volunteer will be placed at the school entrance to deter visitors from taking ice cream inside, (4) no vendor signage will be permitted other than what may be on the vendor cart itself, (5) all ground rules must be communicated to Polly's prior to the Open House, and (6) if Jane DelBianco cannot be present at the event, Polly's will be directed to Karl with any questions or issues.
- *In Word and Deed*, (20 September) Bucks County deed books display — Karl will visit the County Recorder's Office later this month to select deeds for the event.
- *Tunes of the Times*, (18 October) 19th Century music program — No report.
- b. Parking solution — Jane Magne stated the Township is waiting for plan approval from the Bucks County Conservation District for Twining Construction to proceed with installation.
- 3. **Commission Report to Township Supervisors** — No report.
- 4. **Wrightstown Historical Information Scanning Project** — No report.
- 5. **Additional Commission members** — Jane Magne mentioned that some prospective candidates have been identified for future consideration as appointments.

New Business:

1. **Policy on commercial vendors at Open Houses** — The Commission agreed on the need to develop a comprehensive policy on whether to allow commercial vendors and/or non-profit entities to appear at future Open Houses.
2. **Budget request for 2027** — The Commission will carry to next month a discussion of replacing the Octagonal School sign.
3. **Website concept development prospect** — No report.

Next Meeting: Thursday, 6 August 2026

Adjournment: 3:06 p.m.



— Karl J. Niederer, Secretary

ATTACHMENT A, Historical Commission Minutes, 2 July 2026

Beverly H. Wilson
810 Mill Creek Road
Rushland, PA 18956

July 1, 2026

Wrightstown Historical Commission
2203 Second Street Pike
Wrightstown, PA 18940

Dear Members of the Wrightstown Historical Commission,

Please accept this letter as formal notification that I am resigning from my position on the Wrightstown Historical Commission, effective July 1, 2026. At 90 years old, I feel I can no longer serve the commission in my highest capacity.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my nearly 50 years of service with this wonderful group. It has been a true honor to help preserve the rich history of Wrightstown Township alongside such dedicated colleagues. I cherish the wonderful friendships I have made during my time here and look forward to seeing everyone now and again. I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together over the decades.

Thank you for your support, friendship, and shared passion for our community's heritage throughout the years. I wish the commission continued success in all its future preservation efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beverly H. Wilson". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Beverly H. Wilson

2203 SECOND STREET PIKE, WRIGHTSTOWN, PA 18940

Ms. Kay King
P.O. Box 113
Wycombe 18980

The Octagonal School's June Open House featuring *Wrightstown Brushstrokes* was a success in every conceivable way, offering 100 regional visitors the opportunity to see a selection of fine artworks by three of Wrightstown's own esteemed artists displayed in one of our community's great historical venues and—just as exciting—to see all of you in action, painting *plein air* on the grounds!

On behalf of the entire Historical Commission and the Township Board of Supervisors, thank you for your enthusiasm for the idea for *Wrightstown Brushstrokes*, and your willingness to share your time and talents with us and with 100 very happy visitors. You contributed significantly to the success of what we hope may become a continuing feature of the Commission's Open House season: the pairing of the best of Wrightstown's fine art and our rich history in a single event. Finally, we especially thank you, Kay, for donating one of your lovely original paintings to the Historical Commission; we are pleased to add this fine example of your work to our collection!

Yours, in gratitude

cc: Township Board of Supervisors



24 June 2026

Dear April Ann,

The public response on Sunday was overwhelming, attracting one of our largest-ever crowds. The Open House was far more than just a great art show; coupled with our tours of the historic schoolhouse and your live demonstration of your craft, it was an unmatched *experience* for the community. The importance of your role in making this happen cannot be overstated.

On behalf of the entire Historical Commission and the Township Board of Supervisors, thank you for your enthusiasm for the idea for *Wrightstown Brushstrokes*, and your willingness to share your time and talents with us and with 100 very happy visitors. You contributed significantly to the success of what we hope may become a continuing feature of the Commission's Open House season: the pairing of the best of Wrightstown's fine art and our rich history in a single event.

With every good wish for your continued success and enjoyment as an artist in our community, we are

Yours, in gratitude

Wrightstown Township
Historical Commission
Betty Davis, Chair

cc: Township Board of Supervisors



WRIGHTSTOWN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

2203 SECOND STREET PIKE, WRIGHTSTOWN, PA 18940

24 June 2026

Ms. Trisha Vergis
P.O. BOX #6
New Hope, PA 18938

Dear Trisha,

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Wrightstown Township
Historical Commission
Betty Davis, Chair

cc: Township Board of Supervisors