Wrightstown Township Historical Commission
Minutes
1 October 2026

Call to Order: Chair Betty Davis called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Present Members and Guests: Members—Betty Davis, Mary Lee Johnson, Jane DelBianco, and Karl Niederer. Guests—Bob Hurford, resident; Jane Magne, Township Supervisor.

Agenda: Additions and Changes — None.

Approval of Minutes: 3 September 2026 meeting minutes approved without change. Karl has printed out all minutes from November 2024 through August 2026 and placed them in the minutes binder. He noted that the minutes of the September and October 2024 meetings are missing: the last two months of Beverly Wilson's service as secretary. He asked Commission members to check their files for the two missing months' minutes to complete the run.

Treasurer's Report: Jane DelBianco submitted a written report noting the current balance of $528.42 in the 2026 budgeted account and $12,065.29 in the savings account (see Attachment A). Donations totaling $170 were deposited into savings.

Old Business:

1. **Historic Deeds Exhibit in Township Building** — Mary Lee wants to move the exhibit into production. Jane DelBianco has permission from the owner of Painted Dreams Farm to take photographs for the exhibit. Karl will arrange scanning of deeds for the exhibit at the Athenaeum of Philadelphia at a cost of $75. He will produce a companion brochure for the exhibit using its story line, captions, and images. Mary Lee expressed concern about proper storage of the entire collection of original deeds in the future; Karl noted that flat storage of manuscript deeds is best, but may be too expensive and space-consuming to be worth it.
2. **Octagonal School**—
   a. Open House feature programs for 2026 — Outcomes and planning updates:
      - ***In Word and Deed***, 20 September, Bucks County deed books display and program — County Recorder Robin Robinson and and assistant Nicole Douglas jointly presented the display of original deed books relating to Wrightstown, and described the Adopt-a-Book restoration project for the county's original deeds. Ms. Robinson also announced the county's new online fraud alert system to notify citizens whenever a document has been recorded in her office against their name. The program was well-received, but rainy weather limited event turnout to about 30. A letter of thanks to Ms. Robinson and Ms. Douglas will be prepared.
      - ***Tunes of the Times***, 18 October, 19th Century music program — The Stevenses and Deals are ready to perform. As before, their program will be on the school grounds—but indoors in case of inclement weather. All Commission members are available to staff the event, as well as Bob Hurford; we need to ask Lisa Fee and Linda Grubb if they can assist with registration.
   b. **Parking solution** — Parking area completed in time for the September Open House; the finished grading and seeding of site were satisfactory. Karl checked site condition after recent heavy rains; the only problem found was the ruts left by the

truck used to retrieve the portable toilet. Stacy Crandell will ask the vendor to place the portable toilet on the edge of the parking area, to avoid the need for crossing the lawn. The Commission will mark the location for the portable toilet with a cone.

c. **Tree branch removal** — Karl reported that a tree service contractor had removed all dead branches from the walnut tree closest to the school after eradicating a hornet's nest. The tree itself was found to be diseased and should be cut down entirely.

d. **Security system replacement** — Jane Magne indicated that the replacement of the security system can proceed after the Board of Supervisors approve the expenditure .

3. **Commission Report to Township Supervisors** — Karl will report on the successful 2026 season of Octagonal School Open Houses, the coming Historic Deed Exhibit, WHISP progress, and the proposed schoolhouse sign replacement on Monday, 19 October.
4. **Wrightstown Historical Information Scanning Project** — Karl reported on Lisa Fee's progress, and how the project's scanned information enabled her to respond quickly to a recent research query from the new owner of a historic property at 1193 Swamp Road.
5. **Commission members and ordinance** — Jane Magne reported that the Board of Supervisors adopted the ordinance expanding the Commission to a maximum of seven (7) members. New appointments will be made in January. Bob Hurford has expressed interest in appointment. Two other candidates have been interviewed.
6. **Budget request for 2027** —
   a. **Octagonal School sign replacement** — Betty, Karl, and Mary Lee met with Kendra Schieber on Saturday, 19 September to review her concept proposal for a new sign. The Commission consensus was to invite at least two other sign makers to submit design proposals and cost estimates, including options for painted and engraved lettering, and invite Ms. Schieber to resubmit a more finished design. All designs submitted should identify the site as the "Octagonal School." The Commission agreed to submit a 2027 budget request to the Supervisors for $5,000 for the sign.
   b. **Tent for Open Houses** — The Commission consensus was not to request funding to purchase a tent. Jane DelBianco offered to lend her 10'x10' pop-up tent as needed.
   c. **Portable toilets for Open Houses** — The Commission will request a budget of $860-$1,230 for portable toilets for the 2027 season of Octagonal School Open Houses.
7. **Website concept development prospect** — No report.
8. **Subscriptions to online history research resources** — Mary Lee has begun exploring the cost of organizational subscriptions to access the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's collections, and other online resources to support the Commission's research.

New Business:

- **Death of artist Joanna Krasnansky** —Mary Lee attended the 12 September memorial service for artist Joanna Krasnansky, whose fine paintings of the Octagonal School and other Wrightstown historic sites are highly prized (see Attachment B).

Next Meeting: Thursday, 5 November 2026

Adjournment: 3:00 p.m.



—Karl J. Niederer, Secretary

ATTACHMENT A, Historical Commission Minutes, 1 October 2026

Wrightstown Twp. Historical Comm - Treasurer's Report
October 1, 2026

Supply Account Balance:	$550.65
Octagonal School Supplies - Mary Lee Johnson	22.23
New Balance:	$528.42
Savings account:	
Current Balance:	$11,894.27
Deposit:	170.00
Interest	1.02
Ending balance:	$12,065.29

Joanna P. Krasnansky

Joanna P. (Smith) Krasnansky

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Joanna P. (Smith) Krasnansky, a beloved artist, mother, grandmother, and friend, who passed away peacefully on Sunday, July 19, 2026, at the age of 86.

Joanna was born on August 15, 1939, in Macon, Georgia, to the late Sophia (Solomon) Smith and Lynwood Smith. She proudly called Bensalem, Pennsylvania, her home for the past 66 years.

Joanna was a creative soul who found joy in every brushstroke and every piece of stained glass she crafted. As a self-employed artist, she transformed her home into a vibrant gallery, filling it with colorful works that she delighted in sharing with family and friends. Beyond her artistry, Joanna had a green thumb, and her beautiful gardens reflected her love of nature. She also cherished quilting and spending time with her close-knit group of friends, sharing stories, ideas, and laughter that created lifelong memories. While Joanna created countless works of art throughout her life, her greatest masterpiece was the loving home she built and the family and friendships she nurtured.

Joanna was preceded in death by her devoted husband, Rudy J. Krasnansky, Sr., with whom she shared countless beautiful memories. She is survived by her loving sons, Rudy Krasnansky, Sr. (Linda), Randy Krasnansky, and Ron Krasnansky (Christine); her daughter, Carolyn Geleta (Joe); and her seven cherished grandchildren: Ryan, Alexandra, Chloe, Lauren, Matthew (fiancé Logan), Kayla, and Jayden. She will also be deeply missed by her sisters, Linda, Alicia, and Joye, along with many beloved nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend her visitation on Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. at Tomlinson Funeral Home, 2207 Bristol Pike, Bensalem, PA 19020. A funeral service will follow at 10:00 a.m., with interment at Beechwood Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Joanna's memory may be made to the Bensalem Senior Center, 1850 Byberry Road, Bensalem, PA 19020.

As we gather to celebrate Joanna's life, may we remember her kindness, creativity, her generous spirit and know that she will continue to live on in the hearts of her family, her friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing and loving her.