

**Franklin Township
Historical Commission and
Historical Architectural Review Board
Combined Hybrid Meeting**

August 1, 2023

Approved Minutes

I. Call to Order – Paul Lagassé called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM; also in attendance were Sally Gallagher, Chuck Phillips, Nan Latimer, Lou Mandich, and one member of the public.

II. Public Comment – There was no public comment.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes – HC-HARB Meeting, May 2, 2023 – Mr. Mandich moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Ms. Latimer; the minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. New Business – Teresa Eller, a resident of the Historic District, inquired concerning a COA application for proposed exterior work on her house that would in large part echo the existing exterior, and said that she was looking to see if she might expedite the application. HARB members agreed that they would be willing to hold a special meeting if possible in August to review the application. The HARB noted that repair of the leaking roof would be considered an emergency situation, and she could proceed with that in advance of any meeting to consider a COA application.

V. Old Business

A. Updating Historic Resource Surveys and PHMC Data from Map – There was nothing to report.

B. Church Hill African Church Cemetery – There was nothing to report; Mr. Lagassé has not spoken with Crystal Crampton.

C. Other Township Cemeteries – There was nothing to report.

D. Mason-Dixon/Arc Corner Connectivity Project – Mr. Lagassé reported that the project had not yet formally begun.

E. 896 Roadwork & a Walkable Kemblesville – Mr Phillips reported that the Ad Hoc Pedestrian Access Committee was pursuing a crosswalk on Appleton at Chisel Creek, which has possible implications for Kemblesville; there is no trail at Chisel Creek currently. He also noted that pedestrian access along roads might be difficult to achieve currently, as the Township does not want to encourage walking in potentially dangerous locations.

F. Raising Awareness of Kemblesville & Franklin History – Mr. Lagassé reported that the fall festival will be held on September 16 at the park, and the Historical Commission have brochures on several local historical topics and one on the Commission itself. He also hoped to have some large reproductions of local maps. Ms. Latimer and Ms. Gallagher said that they would join Mr. Lagassé in staffing the table. Mr. Lagassé also reported that he had finished the Mason-Dixon brochure.

Later, the possibility of having the brochures placed in local wineries and local museums was discussed.

G. HC Website – There was nothing to report.

H. Township History – Mr. Lagassé reported that Tim Barnekov, a retired urban affairs professor, is working on a history of the White Clay valley in the White Clay Creek State Park and White Clay Creek Preserve, and he will be working with him on the Mason-Dixon Line portion of his history.

I. Multi-Municipal Identification of Historic Resources in the Big Elk Creek State Park – Mr. Lagassé and Ms. Latimer were at a stakeholders meeting that concerned the history of the park, historic resources and related issues. Mr. Lagassé reported that there were five meetings in all, with different groups of stakeholders. Attendees were polled about what they would like to see and not like to see. Mr. Lagassé said it seemed very exploratory, but he felt that some of it could dovetail with the Mason-Dixon Connectivity Project. Both he and Ms. Latimer felt that the consultants were welcoming of the ideas they presented, but it was unclear where all this was going and how long it would be before anything would actually be done.

Mr. Lagassé reported that subsequently he shared maps with the consultants, then met with Sarah Sato, the environmental education specialist coordinator for the park and White Clay Creek Preserve, and they discussed the historic resources in the park. He also reported that a rough deadline for a report on historic resources in the park was the end of the year, and that historic resources would be a feature of the plan but not a significant element.

In response to a question from Mr. Phillips about connections with Fair Hill, Ms. Latimer reported that the park was talking with Fair Hill and the two appear to be on friendly terms, and the fact that Fair Hill has fees and the Big Elk Creek does not was not an issue that will cause any difficulties in the two working together.

J. Talks and Training – Mr. Lagassé reported that on September 14 at 7 PM there will be a talk in New London on the history of Cape May that is cosponsored by the New London Area Historical Society and the Commission. There also was a brief discussion about Scott Steele's West Grove Museum, and Mr. Lagassé mentioned local little museums has been discussed as a possible topic for a talk in New London.

K. Revisions to the Historic District Ordinance – Mr. Lagassé reported that further progress is waiting on a discussion with the Zoning Officer concerning questions raised by the Solicitor.

VI. Public Comment – There was no public comment.

VII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.