

# Upper Makefield *Township*

## *Historical Advisory Commission Meeting*

February 23, 2023

The February 23, 2023 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Historical Advisory Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Diana Kelly at 2:03 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Historical Advisory Commission: Vice Chair Diana Kelly, Secretary Laura Moses, Member Ginny Cleary, Member Ellen Goldblatt, Supervisor/Liaison Ben Weldon, Township Manager David Nyman and Assistant Township Manager Judy Caporiccio

### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Kelly at 2:03 p.m.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Ellen Goldblatt and seconded by Ginny Cleary to approve the meeting minutes of October 27, 2023. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

### **III. Meeting Discussions**

Initial discussion surrounded buildings that may no longer be available for sale in the center of Washington Crossing, the home next to the bank and the Sunoco gas station. We had previously discussed the possibility of purchasing them. We believe both may have sold.

**Action item:** Ms. Kelly volunteered to be in direct contact with the new owners as well as local residents to gather enthusiasm for what the committee may have planned. Mr. Nyman will share Ms. Kelly's willingness to help with the Financial Advisory Committee, who is developing business and resident surveys.

It was noted that the township has a good relationship with the DCNR and our State Representatives, Steve Santarsiero and Perry Warren. These may be supportive relationships as we get plans underway. Financing was clarified to be taken out of earmarked Township funds as well as potential grant money from the State once we have a proposal to offer regarding our expenditures.

Discussion was had related to the idea of cobblestone streets. PennDOT will not allow a full cobblestone street on a State road, either Rt 532 or Rt 32. The possibility of a design feature at intersections (such as Newtown shopping center has) was suggested as well as cobblestone on the edges of the street.

**Action item:** This will need to be researched further and pictures loaded to dropbox.

The committee considered possible help related to gathering historical information. Jeff Marshall, schools and the historians at the Historic Park were considered. Ms. Cleary handed out a packet with Washington Crossing Historic Park tour information and it was discussed how we could add to the historical information the Park already offers. One possibility suggested would be to research who the villagers were, their life in Washington Crossing and how they handled the war being brought to their village. How can we weave a narrative that stresses the human side? Could schools be included in the research?

**Action item:** Gather contact lists for phone calls to Jeff Marshall, school/universities, and other possible historians for direction and help as plans develop.

We continue to discuss signage and the possibility of an app with a walking tour so visitors can visit the signs and locations easily.

**Action item:** Research cost of sign options. Where will they be located? How many? How much does an app cost? Gather examples of what other towns have done.

Photos of Williamsburg and Annapolis were discussed related to design touches that provided a historic look and atmosphere.

**Action item:** Discuss what, if any, of these features we would like to incorporate and research where to purchase, cost, and location for each.

## **VI. Public Comment**

There was no public comment

## **VII. Next Meeting: April 27, 2023**

## **VIII. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Nyman and seconded by Ms. Goldblatt to adjourn the meeting at 3:13 p.m.

Approved: April 27, 2023