

Lower Gwynedd Historic Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting / Workshop
November 16, 2023

Committee Members Present

Allison Klinger
Joseph Langella
Fawn Ostriak
Mike Brockway

Committee Members Absent

Gloria Jones
Linda Sacks

Supervisors Present

Janine Martin
Danielle Duckett

Lower Gwynedd Staff

Mimi Gleason – Township Manager
Michelle Farzetta (not present) Took minutes from recording.

Call to order

The hybrid meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. at the Lower Gwynedd Township building. Roll call was taken.

Approval of the Minutes

In the September 21st minutes it states that “we” would participate in the America 250 events. Mr. Langella asked for clarification that the “we” refer to the township and not the HAC. Mr. Langella made a motion to approve the September 21, 2023, minutes with the clarification, seconded by Ms. Klinger. Motion passed 4-0.
Mr. Langella made a motion to approve the October 19, 2023, minutes, seconded by Mr. Brockway. Motion passed 4-0.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Plan for 2024- Committee Discussion

Ms. Martin opened a conversation about the future of the HAC. Moving forward the Board of Supervisors (BOS) would like the goal of the HAC to be education. Educate the public with

stories of what happened within certain towns or buildings within the township. The ordinance is very broad, we are looking to preserve our local history, not focus only on preservation of buildings and structures. Getting the historical marker program going was a huge victory, and just one way to educate the public. Ms. Martin and Ms. Gleason proposed moving the HAC to an Ad Hoc committee. The term would be one year, the meetings would be less formal, not open to the public, and no minutes would be required. Everyone liked this concept. They all agreed that educating residents and getting them engaged at public events within the community is what they were hoping to do in this committee. Joining in on events held by other committees to provide relevant historical background regarding the location or event would be one way to make this happen. They are also going to partner with the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society (WVHS) to assist with researching information for historical markers. There are volunteers at the WVHS that complete the necessary research.

Mr. Langella mentioned that he spoke with Russ Bellavance regarding the speaker event in the spring. Russ has agreed to do some research about Lower Gwynedd and put together a presentation for the public.

Moving forward the committee would like to do the following...

- Mr. Langella volunteered to take on the task of sending information for the Township Facebook page. He will try to send a historical article monthly that will educate the public about local history.
- Let the supervisors and staff handle public concerns.
- Reach out to the Wissahickon School district to possibly provide a program about local history for the students.
- Partner with racial equity events and possibly assist in events during black history month.
- Create a map of old historic buildings in the area.
- Focus on both the Penllyn School and Gwynedd School history.

Ms. Duckett thanked everyone for how they dealt with the various events this past year. She agreed that moving forward they should tell the stories of what used to be. Partnering with other committees during events would be a great idea.

Adjournment

Ms. Klinger made a motion to adjourn at 7:18 pm, seconded by Mr. Langella. Motion passed 4-0.

