

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP HISTORIC COMMISSION
REORGANIZATION and REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
MINUTES -- JANUARY 22, 2026**

Attending were: Bruce Whitesell, Mary Whitesell and Thomas Cline (Members); Lorna Yearwood, Board Liaison; and William Ryker who submitted his Application for appointment to the Commission.

The Meeting was Called to Order at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and Welcome to Attendees.

Election of Officers: The following were elected under Reorganization by Motion, Duly Seconded and Unanimously Approved: Bruce Whitesell as Temporary Chair and Vice Chair; Mary Whitesell as Secretary; Election of a Chair was deferred until the next scheduled meeting.

Role and Powers of the Commission: A brief discussion ensued as to the Role and Powers of the Commission and those serving as Officers. It was noted that there has not been a meeting of the minds in the past among the Supervisors, the Commission and the Public's expectations and ways that we might be able to improve in those areas; for example, what constitutes historic and compliance.

Interaction with Public: We understand there may be photos and other valuable information in files at the Township Office that could be used to generate interest among the residents of the Township. One thought was looking at a "weekly gem posting" of such found materials and incorporate GIS and properties of interest on a Google Map that may be historic but not so designated at this time. Key element is to foster public support, although it was suggested to move slowly on this aspect until we have something more concrete to offer so that it cannot be construed as a predatory component that would restrict property owner rights. It was also noted that a sharing of information and ideas among the respective ABCs could prevent unnecessary delays and waiting periods in addressing issues, clarification of actions and create cohesive results. Navigating under the current Ordinance to determine what or who is on the list is not easy.

Goals to Accomplish in 2026: The Comprehensive Plan addresses some recommendations in areas that could be a goal of the Commission in 2026.

Comments: Commission; Board of Supervisors Liaison; Public

A question was raised as to whether applications need to go to the Planning Commission first or can a submittal be made to the Historic Commission and if in conformance with zoning ordinance, would not need to come under purview of the Planning Commission.

A suggestion made that we look at outside organizations as to ways they may be valuable participants. An example is the Springtown Historical Society which has proven to be a valuable resource in knowledge and infinite documents available through them. Bruce Whitesell shared that QNB has financing available to property owners for up to \$35,000 for improvements that may be needed for Township compliance. Another possible source of participants might be reaching out to the Schools or Scouts to do gravestone rubbings on historic cemetery sites for preservation of data for which it may be possible to apply for a preservation grant, especially if such sites would revert back to the Township should they fall into disrepair.

Adjournment: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Mary A. Whitesell, Secretary*