

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP HISTORIC COMMISSION
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
MINUTES – APRIL 23, 2026**

Attending: William Ryker, Bruce Whitesell, Mary Whitesell, Thomas Cline (Members)
Lorna Yearwood, Board Liaison

Guest(s): Laurese Holland

The Meeting was Called to Order at 7:04 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and Welcome extended to Attendees. The Board Members shared a short bio of themselves and their affiliated status/residency in the Township.

Minutes: Upon Motion duly made and seconded, the Minutes of the March 26, 2026 Meeting were approved by Unanimous Vote.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items: Our guest, Laurese Holland, expressed interest in submitting her application for Membership on the Historic Commission. In response to an inquiry by her, it was confirmed that a key goal of the Commission is to educate people on the beauty, cultural foundation and rich history of our Township, overcoming the loss in prominence and development concurrent with the Industrial Revolution. Implementation and follow-through on the components of our Comprehensive Plan is major to this success.

Discussion Topics

A) Rule of Conduct based on:

- i) Comprehensive Plan Initiatives, to be recurring points on our Monthly Agenda**
 - a. Encourage a resilient building stock;**
 - b. Establish intent of historic preservation within the Township and align the Historic Overlay District; and**
 - c. Recognize, promote and educate the community on the historic rural identity of the Township**

Integration of Historic Commission, Springfield Township Historical Society and Passer Community Center – Recruiting and keeping volunteers in each Organization is critical to the successful accomplishment of their respective Mission as well as a unified service in the Community to recognize, promote and educate on the historic rural identity of the Township Role and Powers of the Committee. This would also be instrumental in encouragement of a resilient building stock , historic preservation in the Township and alignment of Historic Overlay District. This could also be of value to the Board of Supervisors and Zoning in giving guidance to residents to avoid issues, instead focusing on corrective measures.

B) Lime Kiln on Woodbyne: Preservation is evident though there had been significant destruction also noted. Stabilization then preservation is of primary consideration as is raising awareness. Signage identifying the area and perhaps a bench from recycled material such as plastic bags (a service already embraced by the Lions Club) could be instrumental in this goal. Bill Ryker will reach out to Frank Hollenbach (PLPB) for status update on this agenda item.

C) Springtown Rod & Gun Club 100th Anniversary Event and Semiquincentennial : Volunteers able to assist between the hours of 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM would still be welcome in support of

the Township, the Historical Society and Silver Creek's presence. Bring your families, invite your neighbors to make this a memorable event.

- D) **Data Transfer from Laptop:** Lorna Yearwood and Bill Ryker are working together on digital concept, including cost assessment, expecting to provide further details at a subsequent meeting.
- E) **Sharepoint:** Lorna Yearwood will look to providing more details to flesh out implementation of this process and expansive access capabilities. It had also been suggested that grant monies may be available.
- F) **Goals to Accomplish in 2026** -- Addressed in items appearing above and items to be added for future consideration. A major goal is awareness of resources, and that the Comprehensive Plan is ongoing and should always be front-and-center in mindfulness.

Comments: Commission; Board of Supervisors Liaison; Public

- A) **Commission Comments:** Our Municipal Building improvements provide for a more inviting, approachable space for residents. A future goal may be an assessment of funds allocation to the respective ABCs. At the present, funds are being collected by the Township but not a ready resource for the Commission and ABCs. Bruce Whitesell complimented the Commission Members and Liaison for cohesively working together to achieve results.
- B) **Board of Supervisors:** Lorna Yearwood as the Liaison agreed that Bill Ryker as the recognized ABC Representative of the Historic Commission will look to schedule a meeting with the Board of Supervisors.
- C) **Public Comment:** No comments were forthcoming at this time.

Adjournment and Next Meeting: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM. Our next meeting will be on May 28, 2026 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Whitesell, Secretary