

# Upper Dublin Township Historical Commission

## Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2016

Commissioners in attendance:

- Christopher Pastore
- James Magaziner
- Joan Wolff
- Donah Zack Beale
- Cheryl Clark
- Avis Wanda McClinton

Guest: Mary Lou McFarland

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

(1) Announcements:

- a. Introductions of all members and guests present
- b. Commissioner McClinton is the subject of a YouTube video focusing on her work to preserve Underground Railroad sites in UDT
- c. Commissioner Beale presented information on "This Place Matters" for a student community project that would encourage high school students to help us with our social media and archive projects

(2) Review of archived material from UDTHC files

- a. Agreed by commissioners that all documents in the archive have historical significance since several of the houses/properties have been demolished or destroyed
  - i. Documents include land parcels, pictures and VHS tapes among others
- b. Agreed by commissioners that archived materials should be accessible to students and township residents in some format, preferably scanned PDFs

(3) Discussion of possible online presence for UDTHC

- a. Social media
  - i. Facebook
    1. Environmental Protection Commission has a Facebook page; Historical Commission agreed that we should have the same
    2. Need to seek permissions from Board of Commissioners before proceeding
  - ii. Blog
    1. Possible WordPress site

- (4) Preservation Ordinance and Zoning Code
  - a. Goal to figure out ways to make the ordinance tighter with lesser number of historic properties and do a better job of collecting and sharing information with township community
  
- (5) St. Mary's Villa – Designation, Challenges and Opportunities
  - a. Continued investigation and discussion to designate St. Mary's Villa as a Class I property
    - i. Saving the castle is not enough; the entire 43-acre property should be preserved as a Victorian landscape and open space
    - ii. Mrs. McFarland voiced a recommendation for an historic hotel or B&B
  - b. Commissioner Liz Ferry (Ward I) has expressed an interest in historical preservation
  - c. Township residents need to be made aware of St. Mary's Villa peril to promote community support
  - d. St. Mary's Villa Subcommittee appointed
    - i. Commissioners Magaziner (Subcommittee Chair), Clark and Wolff
  
- (6) New Business:
  - a. Commissioner Pastore
    - i. Will contact the township re: Dropbox subscription for all current commissioners
  - b. Commissioner Wolff
    - i. Will contact Environmental Protection Commissioner Cheryl Knight to find out if the commission requested permission from the Board of Commissioners and other details about their Facebook page
  - c. Commissioner Beale
    - i. Will continue to gather information on student support for community projects
  - d. Commissioner McClinton
    - i. Will review the VHS tape found in the archives
  - e. All commissioners
    - i. Access the [UDT Historical Commission website](#).
      - 1. Historic preservation documents can be found at <http://www.upperdublin.net/information/historic-preservation/>
        - a. Look especially at [Historic Resource Inventory](#)
    - ii. Commissioner McClinton asked all fellow commissioners to provide cell phone numbers so that she can communicate with everyone via text

Next meeting: **Monday, March 28, 2016, 7:00 pm**

*Respectfully submitted by Joan Wolff, UDTHC Secretary*