

Tredyffrin Township Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes – September 11, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Rob Williams, chair; Ernie Falcone, Pearl Nudy, Janice Olsen, Eric Williams, Jean Faber, Associate, Murph Wysocki, Supervisor representative. Andy O'Brien, resident. Dorothy Bedford, Historical Commission member, Schuylkill Township.

Minutes: Minutes for past meetings will be reviewed for approval at the October meeting.

Membership: Mark Dixon asked to step down from full Commission membership for personal reasons. The Commission accepted Dixon's resignation. Next the Commission nominated Dixon to become an Associate Member and was approved. A motion was made and approved for the Commission Chair to write Dixon a thank you letter.

CURRENT BUSINESS

NAPC VIRTUAL SUMMER COURSE. (NAPC) provided a virtual summer training course on August 20-21. Faber watched 5 of the sessions live. E. Williams said he'd like more concrete advice. All said they'd finish watching the replays before the November 23 cutoff.

STREAM NAMING. A new request for support was received from Jenkins Arboretum and Gardens. They want the creek running through their property to be officially named Browning Brook, commemorating the couple that owned the land and donated it to Jenkins. Bedford described how Schuylkill Township formally named 13 creeks after historic figures and places. Jenkins representative will formally ask for support during the HC October meeting.

CLG. Planner Robert Emmanuel will initiate outreach to the public to obtain comments on priorities for preservation planning as well as specific preferences and dislikes. Supervisor Wysocki emphasized the need for public support for changes to the preservation code.

TREDYFFRIN HERITAGE CENTER AT DUPORTAIL HOUSE. The Duportail House board continues to develop the Heritage Center. Areas of focus are development of the interpretative content and physical layout for the whole complex at the site and fundraising. Plans are aimed a first events December this year and fully developed in time for America 250 celebrations.

AUDIO DRIVING TOUR. Olsen reported that our intern Rowan Bellew completed development of an 8-stop driving tour for the Revolutionary War generals' quarters. Bellew use the audio system to produce audio tracks and confirm the location of the audio track playing triggered with geolocation at each of the sites. Stacey Ballard of Eadeh Enterprises offers to have her staff help with voice actors and production. Bellew is now a freshman at Penn State.

AMERICA 250. Plans are starting for Tredyffrin's commemoration of the Semiquincentennial. "Dare to Declare" events are readings of the full Declaration of Independence. Tredyffrin Parks and the Duportail House already commit to holding readings followed by festivities. Conversations with the TE School District are planned for October.

BRITISH REENACTMENTS. Discussions continue with the Township offices and a British reenactment unit to host a unit of 10-15 soldiers at Teegarden Park, the site of the original British encampment in 1777. The weekend of Sept 19-20, 2026 has been selected. The event will be promoted widely through Chester County 250 media channels. E. Williams is the first volunteer to start a working group to support this project. Resident O'Brien agreed to help furnish the wood sticks for the unit to create authentic wigwams.

NEW BUSINESS

EVENTS. Commission members are requested to support upcoming events

- Paoli Battlefield Heritage Day – Sat 20 Sept., Malvern
- Tredyffrin Community Day – Sat 4 October, Wilson Farm Park
- CCHPN Fall Workshop – countywide preservation training, Sat 1 Nov, West Chester

INFORMATION SHARING

NAPC VIRTUAL SUMMER COURSE. Commission members are reminded to watch the 6 sessions of the NAPC training program presented in August. The recordings are available through Nov 23, 2025. Look for an email dated September 9 for links to the training and handouts.

ORGAN CONCERT. A spinoff of our Berwyn Neighborhood Walk held this past Spring is a music event at the historic chapel on Cassatt Ave. The First Church of Christ, Scientist hosts an organ concert open to the public on Saturday 13 September at 2pm. All are welcome.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m. Next meeting October 9, 2025, at 7 pm.