

Tredyffrin Township Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Rob Williams, chair; Ernie Falcone; Pearl Nudy; Eric Williams; Robert Emmanuel, staff liaison; Jean Faber, Associate; Ted Patterson, Jenkins Arboretum Board President; Tom Heisey, Jenkins Arboretum; Angela Scully, Chester Co. Community Foundation

Minutes: Motions for the meeting minutes of following months were individually made, seconded and unanimously approved:

- May 8, 2025
- July 10, 2025
- September 11, 2025

Meeting minutes: Jean Faber was asked to act as secretary and to take minutes at the monthly meetings. She accepted and will begin with the October 2025 meeting.

CURRENT BUSINESS – Project updates

JENKINS ARBORETUM STREAM NAMING:

Jenkins Arboretum Board President Ted Patterson reviewed the history of the creek running through the arboretum and the reasons for choosing to name it Browning Brook. After discussion, it was decided that TTHC will provide a history of the property to support the Arboretum's quest in naming the stream. Ernie Falcone, with help from Janice Olsen, will write the report and Rob Williams will contribute the maps needed. They will have this ready for the December 11, 2025 TTHC board meeting to discuss and approve.

TREDYFFRIN HERITAGE CENTER at DUPORTAIL HOUSE:

Angela Scully reported that there will be no new buildings added to the Heritage Center at Duportail House. There will be interpretative boards, wayfinding signs for the grounds, and possibly a digital interactive kiosk. A kiosk may be provided by the County funded by PA DCED grant money. The need for zoning waiver and exemption from permit fees will be explored.

PA HISTORIC MARKERS:

Rob Williams gave updated information on four of the seven PA Historic Markers.

1. Diamond Rock School – Cupola Academy is a school located adjacent to Diamond Rock School. A project undertaken by the sixth and seventh graders there resulted in a historic marker being created for the Diamond Rock School. A group from the school will make a presentation at our November board meeting.
2. Great Valley Mill – on North Valley Rd., privately held land
3. Gens Howe – to be erected at or near Teegarden Park at 1777 British encampment

4. Gen Wayne – The marker for Gen. Wayne has been rewritten with the help of Eric Williams. PHMC has not provided a date for the sign's replacement.

CLG PROJECT:

Planner Robert Emmanuel met with several members of the public to obtain comments on priorities for preservation planning as well as specific preferences and dislikes. He learned that there were three main incentives of interest to the group: tax breaks, accessing dwelling units (adaptive reuse), and sewer tap-in fee reductions. He believes the general feeling of the group toward an historical preservation ordinance was favorable.

The following motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously:

Express thanks for the continued efforts and promotion by Robert Emanuel in pursuit of CLG project.

AMERICA 250 TREDYFFRIN:

- Angela Scully reported that the Duportail House's Heritage Center has recorded many people reading the Declaration of Independence for the Countywide "Dare to Declare" project. Sites committed include Valley Forge Park, Baptist Church in the Great Valley, and Duportail House.
- Rob Williams reported that the plans for British Reenactments at Teegarden in September 2026 now include as many as 30 reenactors. Among the costs may be honorarium or a stipend for the reenactors, portable toilets, etc..
- The TTHC Community Day booth used a "bingo" board to gather information related to ways the public would like to get information about our Revolutionary War era. The two most popular ways were movie and trivia night, and "a big party".

NEW BUSINESS

- On October 29th, Rob Williams and Janice Olsen will be meeting with the TESD Social Studies Committee to discuss America 250 activities. They will be joined by the TE Historical Society and the Educational chairperson of the A250 Chester County.

TABLED

- General's audio tour
- Tredyffrin Interactive Map

INFORMATION SHARING

- CCHPN Fall Workshop on Saturday, November 1st in West Chester
- America 250 Main Line zoom meetings – 1st Mondays noon
- Ken Burns special – November – Wed., Nov. 19th is VF campaign

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. Next meeting November 13, 2025, at 7 pm.