

## Tredyffrin Township Historical Commission

Minutes for February 12, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Rob Williams.

**Present:** Rob Williams, chair; Ernie Falcone; Eric Williams; Janice Olsen; Mark Dickson; Jean Faber, Associate; Robert Emmanuel, staff liaison; Julie Gosse, Supervisor liaison; Aimee Polaha, Paoli Library

**Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to defer approval of the minutes for the January meeting until the March meeting. Approved unanimously.

Aimee Polaha, Paoli Library Adult Programming Coordinator, shared what the Library is doing for America 250 and her willingness to share and work with TTHC.

### **Current Business** - Project updates

#### **1. YESTERDAY IN TREDYFFRIN**

Mark and Janice have been preparing and editing weekly posts, "Yesterday in Tredyffrin", for the HC Facebook page. These highlight historical people and buildings with the goal of creating an awareness of Tredyffrin's rich history. These are also being shared on other social media and by email. The history of the names of certain areas/neighborhoods (e.g. Strafford) would also be topics to be explored for this.

#### **2. HISTORIC RESOURCES OVERLAY PROJECT**

Emmanuel reported on the first public meeting (Jan 20) and shared a change to the format for the next (Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>) to encourage more dialogue. Ideas for getting more people to attend were shared. It is important to emphasize that the ordinance is for the welfare of the entire township. Thereby, community consensus of identity and history is desired. The goal is to recognize and honor history while managing township growth and owners' interests. Robert's objective and professional organization was recognized as a strength in the implementation of this project.

#### **3. WINDSHIELD SURVEY**

Rob will distribute lists of buildings to identify and photograph to commission members. These will be compiled for future use.

#### **4. AMERICA 250 TREDYFFRIN**

The Chester County touring exhibit for America 250, which focuses on six countywide themes, will be at Tredyffrin Library in April. Do we want to have a display/program that would tie in with this? Everyone was encouraged to visit the exhibit at Easttown Library in February. We might consider having historical materials about Tredyffrin available for visitors to take.

#### **5. 2026 FUNDED PROJECTS**

Priorities for 2026 projects include the British reenactment in September and public interpretive signs. Identifying other top priorities is needed. Eric will work with Rob to organize this.

## 6. DARE to DECLARE

Several area organizations (Duportail House, Paoli Library) are having Dare to Declare events, i.e., readings of the Declaration of Independence. Kiwanis, Rotary, civic clubs, scouts, etc. are other possible participants. Rob, Janice and Jean will meet to brainstorm ideas and then meet with the school district to learn what the schools have planned and encourage participation. Julie will help if Boy Scout help is wanted.

## 7. BRITISH REENACTMENT

Working with the 40<sup>th</sup> Light British reenactors, we need to do several things:

- a. prepare a proposal for the Parks Board
- b. inform the neighbors of the event, and promote this project
- c. determine the things the reenactors require
- d. define out projected costs and permitting

## 8. COMMUNICATION & PUBLICITY

We are doing better and need to continue contributing to the newsletter.

## 9. TREDYFFRIN HERITAGE CENTER

A Content Working Group will be created to determine what will be on the walls, digital kiosk, external signage, etc. . There are two parts of this Group: 1) deciding the topics to be used and 2) researching and writing the blurbs. The overall narrative will be the development of the area (including Tredyffrin and neighboring Schuylkill and Easttown townships) with the Duportail House focusing on the Philadelphia campaign, and the Jones Log barn focusing on agriculture in the area. Other organizations that are interested in supporting this project include TEHS and Valley Forge Park Alliance.

Eric reported that the Commission applied to the Chester County Community Foundation for a \$5,000 America 250 mini grant. The funds will be used for researching and developing the Revolutionary War depredations project exhibit. About half of the farms in Tredyffrin were pillaged by the British army and later encumbered by the Continental army. The goal is to have a map that shows today's Tredyffrin properties that were affected and filed a depredation claim with the 18<sup>th</sup> county government. This would then be accompanied by an audio and physical tour of affected properties.

**Election:** A motion was made and seconded to have Mark Dixon fill the vacant position on the Commission. Approved unanimously.

### Tabled:

- General's audio tour
- PA Historic Markers - Great Valley Mill, Gen. Howe
- Library DOE
- TESD engagement – Rob, Janice and Jean will meet to discuss Dare to Declare. Rob and Janice will reach out to TESD. **Rob and Eric will meet to discuss the Foundation.**

**Future events:**

February 23 @ 7:00 - Supervisors Meeting – Rob Williams presenting America 250 info

**Information Sharing**

- America 250 Main Line zoom meetings – 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays, Jan 12 noon

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m. The next Historical Commission Meeting – March 12, 2026, 7:00 p.m.