

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

Attending: William Ryker, Bruce Whitesell, Mary Whitesell, Thomas Cline [via Phone]
(Members)

Absent: Lorna Yearwood (Board Liaison)

Guest(s): Joseph and Sarah Perotta

The Meeting was Called to Order at 7:05 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and Welcome extended to Attendees.

Minutes: Upon Motion duly made and seconded, the Minutes of the July 23, 2026 Meeting were approved by Unanimous Vote.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items: None presented.

Zoning Permit Application:

1979 Pleasant View Road, Coopersburg, PA (Parcel #42-012-036-001)

Attending on behalf of the Owner, Marie H. Steciw, were Sarah and Joseph Perrotta, Daughter and Son-in-Law of Owner. They presented plans for the proposed rehabilitation, renovation and addition to the property to be in compliance with Secretary of Interior standards for treatment of historic properties (interior and exterior) and full-time living addition. Upon perusal and discussion of the background and description of proposed work, a motion was made, seconded and passed by unanimous vote, to approve the plans as presented and advise the Board of Supervisors accordingly. The Perrottas were encouraged to begin their formal integration, permit and approval process with Township Code Enforcement and the Board of Health for suitability of septic system on property.

Discussion Topics

A key point of discussion will be components of the Comprehensive Plan and areas of specific focus to the Commission.

A) Township GIS Implementation Discussion and Timeline

The County GIS has a lot of layers to its system. There will be continued exploration as to how we can capitalize on that system to mark our properties in a manner that Township residents can access needed information, perhaps with previous ownership of properties included as historical background and genealogy, while still respecting owners right to quiet enjoyment of their property. This would be supportive of the principal mission and vision of the Historic Commission to raise awareness, not policing.

B) Collaborative Efforts of the Historic Commission and the Springfield Township Historical Society

“What’s in your Attic”? There may be a wealth of untapped information and items in possession of individuals who are current or past residents of Springfield Township that could lend itself to enlightenment of historical significance in the evolution of the Township. It was suggested that it may be beneficial for the Historical Society and the Historic Commission to collaborate in identifying individuals who would consider giving a 20-minute

presentation in an informal setting (i.e., coffee klatch) sharing their knowledge of specific areas of interest, the roots of change in the Township, how historical events (national, local and war-time participation and casualties of war) shaped the ongoing development of the Township, historical significance and evolution of first-responder services, personal memories and stories perhaps accompanied by photographs and tangible items long relegated to attics that would spark appreciation in attendees, young and seasoned in life. Genealogy could be an inclusive component. Perhaps recruiting youth from Palisades to assist with set-up, running media equipment and creating visuals would encourage a renewed interest in the history of their community and their impact on future generations. Tom Cline will broach this concept to the Board of the Springfield Township Historical Society.

- C) **Standing Agenda Items and Comprehensive Plan Initiatives:** These will remain areas of focus on a continuing basis, with Springtown more as a quaint village with business signage and building preservation, a living, breathing history that evolves. “Springfield Township Cares” should be at the forefront of our message and concept.

Comments: Commission; Board of Supervisors Liaison; Public

- A) **Commission Comments:** Comprehensive Plan Initiatives, to be recurring points on our Monthly Agenda
- 1) Encourage resilient building stock;
 - 2) Establish intent of historic preservation within the Township and align the Historic Overlay District; and
 - 3) Recognize, promote and educate the community on the historic rural identity of the Township
- B) **Board of Supervisors:** In the absence of Lorna Yearwood, this topic was deferred.
- C) **Public Comment:** Our Guests, Sarah and Joseph Perrotta, thanked the Commission for their attentiveness to their presented Plan, decisive action to approve same and timely notification to the Board of Supervisors.

Adjournment and Next Meeting: Upon motion duly made and seconded by Bruce Whitesell and Thomas Cline, respectively, the Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM. Our next meeting will be on August 27, 2026 at 7:00 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Mary A. Whitesell, Secretary*