

Wrightstown Township Historical Commission

Minutes

5 February 2026

Call to Order: Chair Betty Davis called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Present Members and Guests: Chair Betty Davis, Jane DelBianco (departed at 1:35), Mary Lee Johnson, and Karl Niederer. Absent: Beverly Wilson. Guest: Jane Magne, Township Supervisor.

Agenda: Additions and Changes - None.

Approval of Minutes: 8 January 2026 meeting Approved without change.

Treasurer's Report: Jane DelBianco presented her report, stating that the Commission's budgeted supply account balance for 2026 remains at \$1,000.00, and the current savings account balance is \$11,118.76. (See Attachment A for detail.)

Old Business:

1. Exhibit in Township Building —

a. 2026 exhibit theme option; assignment of planning and production — Karl urged choosing a topic and theme easy for Commission members to research and produce. He reminded his availability to work on this year's exhibit will be limited to preparing exhibit storyline texts and captions.

- Display of deeds from WTHC collection with "then and now" photos — Commission members reviewed several filed deeds as possible display items. Jane Magne and Karl Niederer will check the Township's bank safe deposit box for any deeds that may be stored there.
- Mills in the township: Rush Valley, Worthington, Chapmans, Lacey, etc.
- Other octagonal schools in southeastern Pennsylvania
- Local businesses in the township

The consensus of the Commission was to delay the selection of a theme until the March meeting.

2. Octagonal School—

a. Special programs for 2026 — Updates

- *Octagonal Artistry*, (May) local school students Octagonal School artwork show — Mary Lee received a favorable response from Wrightstown art teacher Melissa Miguelez, who asked for guidelines and instructions. All art in any medium must feature the Octagonal School; maximum 8.5" x 11" for art on paper; sculptures may be larger. Mary Lee will notify Ms. Miguelez of the guidelines. The Commission must provide display substrates. Artwork will be inside due to weather, thus limiting display space. A cap on the number of submissions for the show may be necessary. The Commission approved Jane Magne's suggestion to award all participating students a certificate of appreciation from the Township Supervisors.
- *Wrightstown Brushstrokes*, (June) show of adult artists' work on Wrightstown sites — Mary Lee reported uncertainty if the event can occur in June due to the summertime absence of local artist Kay King, who is key to securing the participation of several other local artists. The Commission asked if events in May

- or October might be switched to accommodate Ms. King. Unfortunately, the *Tunes of the Times* musicians in October cannot switch their date, and it would be impractical to switch the student art show from May to June. Mary Lee will discuss the scheduling issue with Ms. King and report back by the March meeting.
- *The Gilded Quill*, (July) penmanship and calligraphy demonstration, and USA 250th celebration — Mary Lee reported Robert Hurford and his wife will attend our March meeting and present a synopsis of what their event will feature. Karl hopes to obtain a full-size facsimile of the Declaration of Independence for display.
 - *In Word and Deed*, (September) Bucks County deed books display — Karl reported that the County Recorder of Deed's Office has confirmed their participation.
 - *Tunes of the Times*, (October) 19th Century music program — Karl reported the Deals and Stevenses had confirmed their willingness to perform. The Commission suggested that their musical selections should tie in with the nation's 250th anniversary celebration.
- b. Parking solution — Betty and Mary Lee met with Township Engineer Cindy VanHise on 15 January to discuss the location of the proposed parking area near the Octagonal School. They called the meeting productive, and Ms. VanHise agreed to relocate the area per the Commission's request. Accordingly, Ms. VanHise will revise the original plan of March 2025 (see Attachment B), and will mark the corners of the lot per the revised plan with stakes prior to construction. Jane Magne said the Board of Supervisors had authorized the revision to be presented for their review and acceptance, and we can be assured the new lot will be finished in time for the May Open House.
3. **Oxford Valley Octagonal School site field trip** with Robert Craig, Lower Makefield Township — Karl reported that Robert Craig has agreed to accompany the Commission on a site visit to the remains of the Oxford Valley School, and the tentative date is Thursday, 19 February, contingent on weather conditions and the absence of snow cover. The Commission members will meet Mr. Craig at the site.
4. **Commission Report to Township Supervisors** — No report from the Commission requested in January or February.
5. **Wrightstown Historical Information Scanning Project** — Karl provided a brief general progress report on the project, stating that volunteer Lisa Loeffler Fee has completed several hundred tax parcel entries in the inventory spreadsheet, along with high-quality scans of all photos in the parcel files.

New Business:

None presented.

Next Meeting: Thursday, 5 March 2026

Adjournment: 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



— Karl J. Niederer, Secretary

ATTACHMENT A, Historical Commission Minutes, 5 February 2026

Wrightstown Twp. Historical Comm - Treasurer's Report
February 5, 2026

Supply Account Balance: \$1,000.00

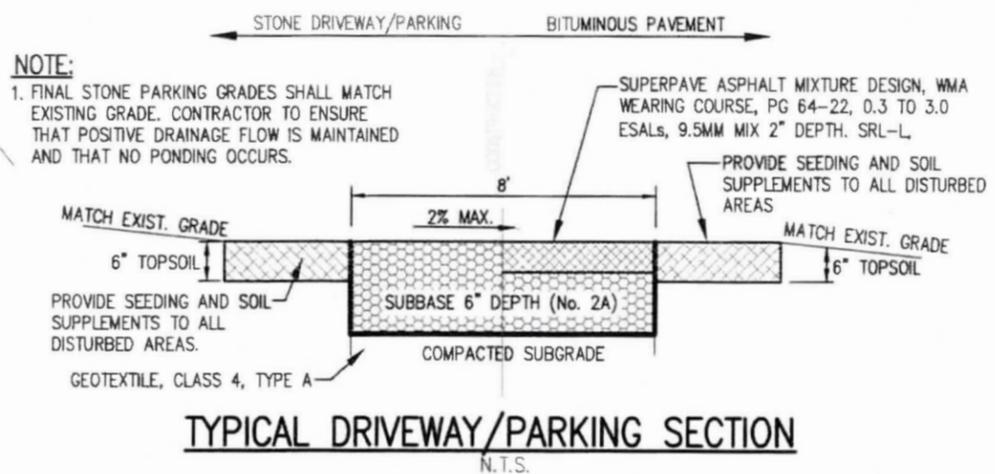
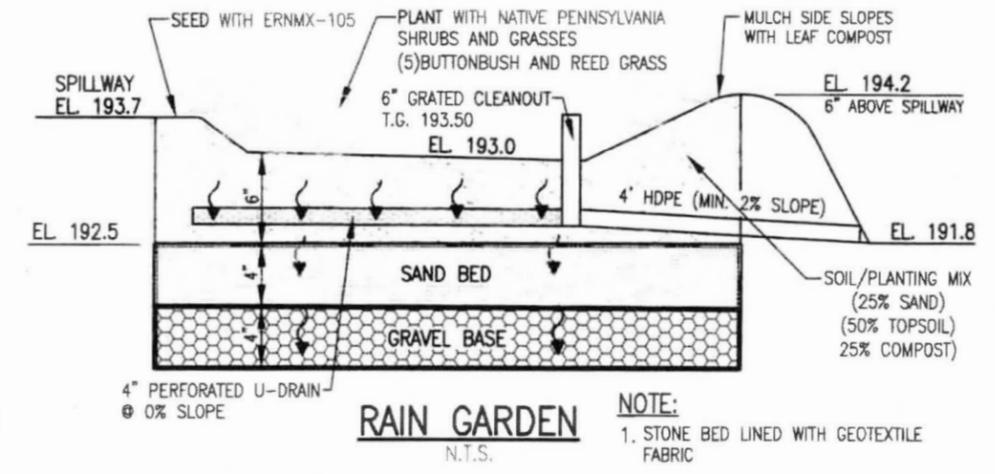
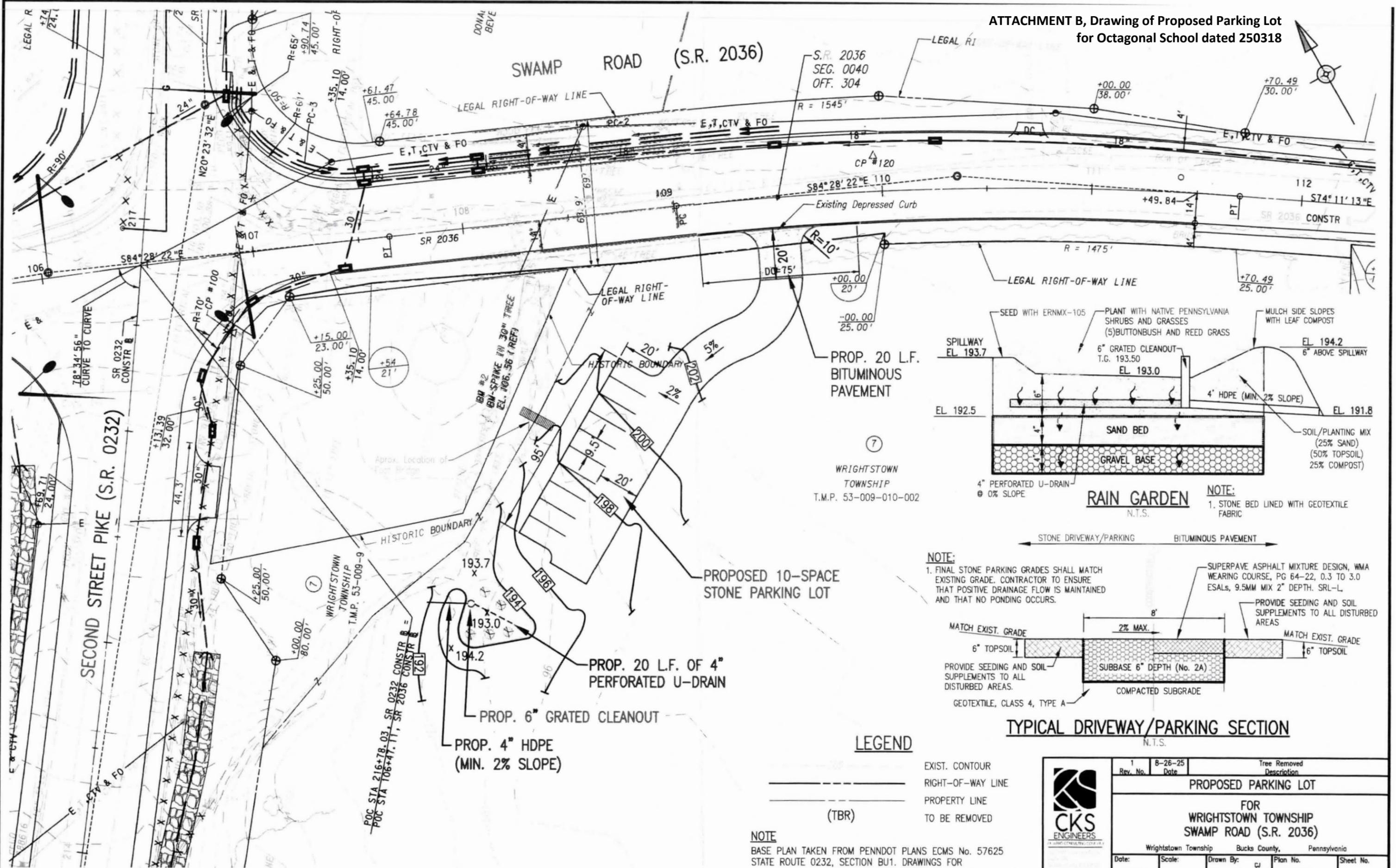
Savings account:

Current Balance: \$11,116.90

Interest - 2 months 1.86

Ending balance: \$11,118.76

ATTACHMENT B, Drawing of Proposed Parking Lot for Octagonal School dated 250318



LEGEND

--- EXIST. CONTOUR
- - - - - RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE
- - - - - PROPERTY LINE
--- TO BE REMOVED
(TBR)

NOTE
BASE PLAN TAKEN FROM PENNDOT PLANS ECMS No. 57625
STATE ROUTE 0232, SECTION BU1. DRAWINGS FOR
CONSTRUCTION, SHEETS 25 AND 29 OF 36. DATED 09/04/2020.

	1	8-26-25	Tree Removed
	Rev. No.	Date	Description
PROPOSED PARKING LOT			
FOR WRIGHTSTOWN TOWNSHIP			
SWAMP ROAD (S.R. 2036)			
Wrightstown Township Bucks County, Pennsylvania			
Date:	Scale:	Drawn By:	Plan No.
3/18/25	1" = 40'	CJ	C0005414.00
		Checked By:	Sheet No.
		MFC	1 OF 1