

Wrightstown Township Historical Commission
Minutes
6 August 2026

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

Members and Guests present: Betty Davis, Mary Lee Johnson, Karl Niederer, and Jane DelBianco (arrived 1:30). Guests, Bob Hurford, Wrightstown resident, and Jane Magne, Township Supervisor.

Agenda: Additions and Changes None.

Approval of Minutes: 2 July 2026 meeting minutes approved without change.

Treasurer's Report: Jane Del Bianco reported that \$550.65 remains of the Commission's annual budgeted funds. The savings account balance is \$11,585.28, reflecting deposits in June totaling \$461.00 and interest of \$1.00 (see Attachment A).

Old Business:

1. **Beverly Wilson Resignation** — Betty sent a formal letter to Beverly Wilson thanking her for her many years' faithful service as a Commission member (see Attachment B).
2. **Exhibit in Township Building** — Betty and Mary Lee Johnson reported on research progress in matching original 18th and 19th century deeds with current locations in the township. When complete, they will display selected deeds and related documents in the display case in the front lobby of the Township Building.
3. **Octagonal School—**
 - a. **Open House feature programs for 2026** — Outcomes and planning updates:
 - *Pen & Ink*, 19 July, Mary Lee and Karl reported that Bob Hurford's penmanship and calligraphy demonstration and USA 250th celebration was well attended with approximately 90 visitors. Bob was pleased with the event, describing visitors as attentive and interested in his craft, and is willing to repeat his presentation. Letters have been sent to Bob, musician Nancy Shill, and Julia Bailey of Polly's Ice Cream, thanking them for contributing to the event's success (see Attachment C). The Commission also expressed gratitude to volunteers Linda Grubb, Lisa Fee, and Jane Magne for their help managing the registration table and orienting visitors.
 - 16 August, no feature program — Assigned to staff were Mary Lee and Karl, 1:00-3:00 shift; Betty and Jane Del Bianco, 3:00-5:00 shift. Bob Hurford agreed to staff the registration table from 1:00-3:00; Linda Grubb will be asked if she can also assist with registration. Karl will produce a generic promotional poster and release for future open houses when we have no feature program.
 - *In Word and Deed*, 20 September, Bucks County deed books program — Karl reported selecting the same deed books for display as last year, confirming that County Recorder of Deeds Robin Robinson will speak on the Adopt-A-Book program. Mary Lee has distributed media releases and promotional materials.
 - *Tunes of the Times*, 18 October, 19th Century music program — No report.
 - *Octagonal Artistry*, 17 May — Mary Lee explained that Wrightstown Elementary School art teacher Melissa Miguelez will not repeat the student art show in 2027, citing the amount of time and work involved in preparing and displaying the art.

Mary Lee will contact Suzanne Frey, Sol Feinstone Elementary's art teacher, about the prospect of a 2027 show of her students' work.

- b. **Parking solution** — Jane Magne reported the Township has not received approval from the Bucks County Conservation District for the proposed parking area and access drive. Twining Construction cannot proceed without BCCD approval.
4. **Commission Report to Township Supervisors** — Jane Magne requested Karl to appear at the 17 August Supervisors meeting to present a tribute to Beverly Wilson for her long and faithful service to the Historical Commission. All Commission members will provide Karl with personal stories of their work with Beverly to add to the tribute.
5. **Wrightstown Historical Information Scanning Project** — Karl summarized volunteer Lisa Fee's written progress report. She maintains two spreadsheets, one to track WHISP files and folders that have been scanned and inventoried, and a second tracking her volunteer time and any concerns or problems encountered. She reported that she has lost access to the project's shared drive from home due to the removal of a link.
6. **Commission members** —
 - a. Beverly Wilson's resignation accepted by letter dated 3 August 2026 (see 1. above).
 - b. Status of new appointments — Jane Magne reported the Supervisors will consider changing the Commission's ordinance to allow up to seven (7) members. Candidate vetting is underway, with appointments to occur later this year or beginning of 2027.

New Business:

1. **Policy on commercial vendors at Open Houses** — On motion, seconded, the Commission adopted a policy permitting no vendors or sellers of goods or services at Open Houses, and permitting no artists displaying their work to post prices for the sale of their work.
2. **Budget request for 2027** — Octagonal School sign replacement — Karl will ask Kendra Schieber to schedule a site visit with the Commission and Jane Magne to discuss sign design requirements and location options, and ask for a budget estimate for the design, fabrication, and installation of the sign for 2027 budget planning purposes.
3. **Website concept development prospect** — No report.
4. **250th event, 3 August** — State representative Kristen Marcell's staff invited us to a 250th event in Tamanend Park, Upper Southampton. The Commission did not participate.
5. **Private tour of Octagonal School, 24 September** — Linda Majewski of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees has requested a tour of Octagonal School on Thursday, 24 September, 11:00 a.m. Betty agreed to lead the tour with Bob Hurford. Mary Lee will confirm the date with Ms. Majewski.
6. **Donated books for penmanship** — Bob Hurford donated a collection of books on penmanship, including two copy books, two instruction books for teachers, and a student's textbook of type fonts for signs and posters. Karl will prepare a letter thanking Bob for the donation.

Next Meeting: Thursday, 3 September 2026

Adjournment: 2:47 p.m.



— Karl J. Niederer, Secretary

ATTACHMENT A, Historical Commission Minutes, 6 August 2026

Wrightstown Twp. Historical Comm - Treasurer's Report August 6, 2026

Supply Account Balance:	\$550.65
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New Balance:	\$550.65
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Savings account:

Corrected Current Balance:	\$11,123.28
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6/2/26 Deposit	223.00
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6/4/26 Deposit	130.00
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6/24/26 Deposit	108.00
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6/30/26 Interest	1.00
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Ending balance:	\$11,585.28
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WRIGHTSTOWN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

2203 SECOND STREET PIKE, WRIGHTSTOWN, PA 18940

3 August 2026

Mrs. Beverly H. Wilson
810 Mill Creek Road
Rushland, PA 18956

Dear Beverly,

On behalf of a grateful Historical Commission, I accept with sincere regret your resignation as a member of the Commission, effective 1 July.

A founding member of the Commission appointed in 1972, you pioneered efforts to preserve and increase public appreciation for Wrightstown's rich history, and your subsequent service spanned more than 28 years: 1972 to 1981, and 2007 to 2026. What a remarkable record of achievement for the citizens of this township! For many years you served as our Commission secretary, keeping the minutes of our meetings and managing official correspondence. You have always brought great enthusiasm to Octagonal School Open Houses, dedicated much time and effort to all the Commission's manifold programs, exhibits, and events, and made a special project of faithfully collecting obituaries of Wrightstown residents from local newspapers.

Besides your unflagging commitment to the Commission's work, you have ever been a cheerful and encouraging colleague and friend to us all, making our own service interesting, enjoyable and rewarding. We count it a distinct privilege to have served alongside you these many years.

With every good wish for your many years of health and happiness in retirement for, we are

Yours, in gratitude

Betty Davis

Wrightstown Township
Historical Commission
Betty Davis, Chair

cc: Township Board of Supervisors



WRIGHTSTOWN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

2203 SECOND STREET PIKE, WRIGHTSTOWN, PA 18940

24 July 2026

Mr. Robert Hurford
201 Pineville Road
Wrightstown, PA 18940

Dear Bob,

The Octagonal School's July Open House featuring *Pen & Ink: The History of American Penmanship* was a success in every possible way, giving nearly 90 regional visitors the opportunity to witness the demonstration of your exquisite penmanship in the context of a historic schoolhouse where this very skill was taught 200 years ago. An aphorism sometimes credited to John Adams, "All history is local," surely applies to Wrightstown, and it was fitting that our observance of the nation's 250th anniversary took place in the Octagonal School!

The public response on Sunday was impressive, attracting a large and enthusiastic crowd. The Open House was far more than just a fun weekend event; coupled with our tours of the historic schoolhouse and your live demonstration of your craft, it was an unmatched *experience* for the community. The importance of your role in making all this happen cannot be overstated. Your own excellent handout, "Learning Penmanship in America," gave visitors a wonderful take-away piece on the history of a skill no longer taught in American public schools, and we thank you for providing us with six additional brochures on penmanship.

On behalf of the entire Historical Commission and the Township Board of Supervisors, thank you for embracing the idea for *Pen & Ink: The History of American Penmanship*, and your willingness to share your time and talents with us and our 90 happy visitors. You contributed significantly to the success of what we hope may become a continuing feature of the Commission's Open House season—pairing classic educational skills and crafts with lessons on our community's rich history in a single event.

With every good wish for your continued success and enjoyment as a historian and resident in our community, we are

Yours, in sincere gratitude

Wrightstown Township
Historical Commission
Betty Davis, Chair

cc: Township Board of Supervisors



WRIGHTSTOWN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

2203 SECOND STREET PIKE, WRIGHTSTOWN, PA 18940

24 July 2026

Ms. Nancy Shill
12 Eden Roc
New Hope, PA 18938

Dear Nancy,

The Wrightstown Octagonal School's July Open House on 19 July featuring *Pen & Ink: The History of American Penmanship* was a success in every conceivable way. Along with our historical tours of the school itself, we had Bob Hurford's demonstrations of early American penmanship, the reading of the Declaration of Independence, the delicious local ice cream flavors of Polly's—and you entertained 90 visitors with a wonderful selection of period music. You brought something special indeed to a glorious afternoon!

The Historical Commission appreciates your willingness to share your love of music and song with others, particularly in a historic venue like the Octagonal School. Your enthusiasm for the music of the early 19th century is obvious, and we believe that our visitors found it an important contribution to an Open House that was more than just an event: it was an *experience*! Since the July Open House was one of Wrightstown's public events marking the nation's 250th anniversary, it was most fitting that you were part of it.

On behalf of the entire Commission and the Township Board of Supervisors, thank you for participating in our July Open House and contributing to its success.

With every good wish for your continued success in bringing the gift of music to people throughout our historic area, we are

Yours, in gratitude

Wrightstown Township
Historical Commission
Betty Davis, Chair

cc: Township Board of Supervisors



WRIGHTSTOWN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

2203 SECOND STREET PIKE, WRIGHTSTOWN, PA 18940

24 July 2026

Ms. Julia Bailey
Polly's Ice Cream & Espresso
2325 Second Street Pike
Wrightstown, PA 18940

Dear Julia,

The Wrightstown Octagonal School's July Open House on 19 July, featuring *Pen & Ink: The History of American Penmanship* was a success in every conceivable way. Along with our historical tours of the school itself, we had Bob Hurford's demonstrations of early American penmanship and period music by Nancy Shill, all topped off with the delicious ice cream flavors of Polly's, your new local shop in Penn's Park! Nearly 90 regional visitors came to the Open House last Sunday, and everyone appreciated the sweetness brought to the event via your ice cream cart!

The Historical Commission recognizes your multigenerational roots in Wrightstown: your great grandmother Helen (a founding member of the Commission in 1972) and your grandmother Polly Bailey, the namesake of your business. Polly served for many years as valued administrative staff for Wrightstown Township, and was well acquainted with the work of the Historical Commission. Your ice cream shop is a fine way to keep her memory alive.

On behalf of the entire Commission and the Township Board of Supervisors, thank you for participating in our July Open House and contributing to the success of the event.

With every good wish for the success of your new business in our community, we are

Yours, in gratitude

Wrightstown Township
Historical Commission
Betty Davis, Chair

cc: Township Board of Supervisors