

**Minutes**  
**Mt. Lebanon Historic Preservation Board**  
Monday, November 20, 2023, Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building, 5 p.m.

**Attendance**

**Present:** Philip Neusius, chair; Mary Ellen Donato, Grace Gartman, Alan Hohlfelder, Matthew Moses, Marilyn Oberst-Horner, Staff liaison Laura Pace Lilley; Commission liaison Mindy Ranney.

**Call to order:** Board chair Phil Neusius called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Citizens Comments:** John Riordan, 260 Park Entrance drive, expressed his concern regarding bricks that were removed from his street without any notice to residents, and replaced with new bricks. The old bricks were taken to replace bricks on Overlook that were removed for a utility repair. Staff liaison Laura Pace Lilley read an email from Rudy Sukal, the Director of Public Works, that explained that the Overlook bricks fell apart upon removal by Peoples Gas and could not be reinstalled. The Park Entrance bricks were the closest match to the rest of the street.

**Consideration of October minutes:** The October minutes were approved with two abstentions, due to absence from that meeting.

**Administrative Reports**

**Chair report —** Phil Neusius reported that the PA Historical Museum Commission is offering a new microgrant to preserve community records for archives. He will attend a November 29 webinar to determine eligibility and share the info to other organizations in the community.

**Commission report —** Commissioner Mindy Ranney urged everyone to look at the online Comprehensive Plan and give detailed input by December 5. She also reported that the budget is now public and includes an increase for the new trash and recycling contract. They would like to institute a flat fee instead of a tax increase. Jeff Siegler will replace Mindy Ranney as Commission liaison starting Jan 2024.

**Staff Liaison —** No report.

**Continuing Business**

**Brick Streets:** The board reviewed revisions to the brick streets policy regarding earlier notification to residents of work being done on their street. Mindy will work with Matt and Phil to suggest updated wording.

**Public Education/Board Education Events:** Alan Hohlfelder reported that This Old Sustainable House series is planned for next year, however the Library rejected 5 of the 7 speakers because they work for private companies, which goes against their policy for hosting events. The board decided to change the venue to the Howard Hanna Mt. Lebanon office.

**Advisory Board Transition:** No report.

## **Liaison Reports**

**Comprehensive Plan:** Phil Neusius urged everyone to go online and comment on the Comprehensive Plan recommendations.

**Mt. Lebanon Economic Development Council:** Matthew Moses spoke about the Active Transportation Plan that will encourage forms of transportation other than automobiles. The municipality is seeking a \$100,000 joint grant with Dormont and will propose to budget \$80,000 for implementation. They are also pursuing a \$10,000 PHMC Design Guideline Grant for business façade renovations. The Vibrant Uptown punch list items are being completed. Two new businesses have opened in Uptown and Bado's on Beverly Rd. closed on Nov. 22. The PNC space on Washington Rd is being leased to a high-end retail business. Vinyl Remains is expanding to the adjoining storefront to add vintage home furnishings.

**Historical Society of Mount Lebanon:** Grace Gartman reported that in December they will expand the hours that they are open to the public. Board member elections are approaching and there are several vacancies. In January they will publicize a call for more volunteers.

**Planning Board:** No report.

**Partnership Design Committee:** No meeting this month.

**Adjournment and next meeting:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m. The next meeting will be January 15, 2024.