

Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway Commission
Thursday, January 23, 2025, 7:00 PM (both In-person at CFT and ZOOM)
ZOOM Meeting ID: 857 2265 0304 Passcode: 230057

ZOOM Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85722650304?pwd=w4R78ER8NcZhM6Ep3RVLdV7twFdwqr.1>

Phone Call in number: 309-205-3325 (US) AGENDA

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Rich Phifer (East Bradford Township, Chester County) - Chair
Jim Haigney (East Bradford Township, Chester County) - Secretary
Kathleen Goodier (Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County)
David Scranton (Pocopson Township, Chester County) – Vice Chair
John Haedrich (Kennett Township, Chester County) – (Treasurer)
Helene Badeau (Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County)
Sarah Mims (Pocopson Township, Chester County)
Maree Forbes Gaughan (Advisor, National Travel Center, via Zoom)
Elaine Gizler (National Travel Center, via Zoom)
Deb Brown (National Travel Center, via Zoom)

Guests

Don McKay, Friends of Barnard Station
Harold Hoffman, President, Friends of Barnard Station
James Noon, Treasurer, Friends of Barnard Station
Alta Hoffman, Friends of Barnard Station
Karen Marshall

Absent:

Lois Saunders (Advisor)
Tina Bennett (Kennett Township, Chester County)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Rich Phifer at 7:04 pm.

Announcements and Public Comment

Rich stated that New Business will be placed in front of old business tonight. There were no public announcements.

Routine Business

Review & Approval of December 5, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Kathleen Goodier, seconded by David Scranton, the minutes of the December 5, 2024, meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report as of 01/15/2025

Truist Checking

Previous checking balance 12/2/24: \$13,493.92
Net income - none
Checking Expense items:
1/15/2025 – Truist CC Payment \$100.00, DCED Grant Application fee
Net expense items for the period - \$100.00
Truist Checking balance as of 1/15/25: \$13,393.92

Pending check payments: NONE

Truist Credit Card

Credit card balance as of 1/15/2025: none

Fulton Bank CDs

CD #94802023 \$5,000.00 (6 month, 3%; matures 05/13/25)

CD #94801929 \$10,000.00 (12 month, 3.5%; matures 05/08/25)

Fulton Bank MMF (Money Market Account ...0877)

12/02 24 – Beginning Balance - \$13,739.48

10/31/24 – Interest Credit - \$7.92

01/15/25 – Ending Balance - \$13,747.40

2024 Financial Statement (for review)

On a motion made by Kathleen Goodier and seconded by David Scranton, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

John Haedrich is requesting a motion to approve the 2025 fee for hosting the Tubman Byway website in the amount of \$260.35 (invoice 4806). Rich Phifer made a motion to approve the payment, and Kathleen Goodier seconded the motion. Discussion ensued over service alternatives, but it was generally decided that shifting to another service such as GoDaddy would not be as reliable as the current vender. Helene asked if there was an opportunity to combine multiple website invoices for a discount. All voted in favor of the motion.

Third item on the Treasurer's Report agenda: John presented a draft budget of accounts and available funds for the 2025 calendar year. John mentioned that the Commission plans to discuss the cash on hand, grant money awarded, and potential future grant opportunities in greater detail at the February meeting.

Rich turned the floor over to David Scranton for a presentation of the year-end financial statement. The statement was presented to the Commission. David mentioned that the presented format makes the audit much easier to compile moving forward, especially given the recently awarded grants.

Election of Officers – 2025 (two-year terms)

Nomination for Treasurer / Election

Rich Phifer made a motion to nominate John Haedrich for Treasurer. Helene Seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Nomination for Vice Chair / Election

Rich wanted to make note that the Bylaws prohibit electing a commissioner as new Vice Chair who is from the same Township as the outgoing Vice Chair, unless all other Commissioners have been offered the opportunity and have passed on the offer. That being the case, Rich Phifer made a motion to nominate David Scranton for Vice Chair. Kathleen Goodier Seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Confirmation of 2025 Meeting Schedule

Rich Phifer presented the 2025 Meeting Schedule as follows:

January 23, 2025

February 27, 2025

March 27, 2025

April 24, 2025

May 22, 2025 (meeting at the Pocopson Township building with a tour of Barnard Station)

June 26, 2025

July 24, 2025

August 28, 2025

September 25, 2025

October 23, 2025

December 4, 2025

New Business

Friends of Barnard Station Presentation by Don McKay et al.

Pocopson Township owns the historic Barnard House. The Friends of Barnard Station 501(c)3 formed in 2021 and signed an agreement with Pocopson Township to renovate the interior of the first floor of the house with funds obtained from private donations and awarded grants. The renovation is focused on preserving the historic nature of the house through restoration rather than renovation. The goal is to bring the house back to its original state of existence. Open houses occur in summer months, once per month. They have added a kiosk in front of the house for information purposes. They are currently focused on restoration of the flooring back to the original white oak material. Most of the rooms are ready to be painted prior to the open house scheduled for April. Once complete, the focus will shift to the back room in 2025. The original kitchen is scheduled for renovation back to the 1850's period. The underground railroad story that dovetails with the restoration project will be presented as part of the museum elements of the project.

Don presented the proposed floor plan for the house/museum. Don wanted to share the work being done at the house as part of an ongoing effort to merge common interests of the Tubman Byway and Scenic Byway and explore future funding for the preservation efforts.

Rich Phifer mentioned that there is great opportunity for synergy with the efforts of Barnard Station. Rich mentioned that there will be other opportunities for future grant applications. Rich mentioned that June or July is a good time to check in with the Commission on upcoming Fall grant opportunities. John Haedrich asked if any coordination or letters of support would be needed, and the Commission offered their support in that regard.

Old Business

Inter-Governmental Cooperative Agreement

Rich stated that he'll be working with the member municipalities to finalize an update to the Inter-Governmental Cooperative Agreement in the early part of 2025.

BVNSB Website

Maree presented the Pines planning study to the Commission. Maree stated that the first half of the grant tasks have been completed. Maree presented the details of the various rooms and how the museum will be designed for the public. There will be room for ten people on the second floor. Maree stated that the two grant applications were submitted on time. The entire cost of restoration is estimated at **\$1,661,000**.

Maree stated that they have found a mapping program that they feel is a good fit for the website. The map connects the website information for each waypoint to the map without the need for a yearly or annual cost. Rich asked if the Commission had any questions. John Haedrich asked if there is a match involved with the PHMC grant. Maree stated that it is a 100 percent matching grant and that the Commission has some flexibility in compiling the match funds.

HTUGRR

CC250 Partnership (Path to Freedom)

John stated that a task force meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2025.

HTUGRR Interpretive Trail (VPP Grant)

Refer to Maree Forbe's presentation above.

BVSB Chadds Ford Township Project

No new updates

"The Pines"

Planning Study (AACHAF Grant)

Refer to Maree Forbe's presentation above. Fall grant applications were submitted prior to their deadlines. The PHMC grant opportunity is being explored, provided the Pines is listed on the National Register of Historic Places or is otherwise deemed eligible. Karen Marshall opined that if the structure is deemed currently ineligible due to not being listed on the Register, Kennett Township would be willing to pursue quick action on a nomination for its listing. Karen believes that the PHMC would strongly support the nomination effort.

FHWA Grant Application

Rich thanked John Haedrich and Maree Forbes for their hard work in preparing the grant application.

DCED LSA Statewide Grant Application

No update

BVSB Corridor Signage

No update

National Scenic Byway Foundation

No update

Tribute to Mary Fahner-Short

Rich is following up on a location, type of tree and plaque style with the Pennsbury Township management.

Rich thanked Karen Marshall for all of her efforts and wished her a happy birthday.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm

Next meeting – February 27, 2025