

Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway Commission
Thursday, September 25, 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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85722650304?pwd=w4R78ER8NcZhM6Ep3RVLdV7twFdwqr.1)
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
David Scranton (Pocopson Township, Chester County) – Vice Chair
John Haedrich (Kennett Township, Chester County– Treasurer
Maree Forbes Gaughan (Advisor, National Travel Center, (via Zoom)
Kathleen Goodier (Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County)
Sarah Mims (Pocopson Township, Chester County) via zoom
Crystal Crampton (KURC) via Zoom
Debbie Burston (KURC) via Zoom

Absent:

Lois Saunders (Advisor)
Tina Bennett (Kennett Township, Chester County)
Helene Badeau (Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Rich Phifer at 7:00 pm.

Announcements and Public Comment

Rich announced that Tina Bennett has resigned from the Commission effective this evening. Rich thanked her for her time and efforts serving on the Commission. Rich hoped that Kennett Township will fill the vacancy soon. Kathleen mentioned that she will miss Tina and her efforts as well.

David announced that Pocopson has requested that he participate on a zoom call with the Chester County Planning Commission along with East Marlborough Township, Kennett Township, Kennett Square Borough and Pennsbury Township to develop a Harriet Tubman Driving tour.

Routine Business

Review & Approval of August 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Rich Phifer, seconded by Kathleen Goodier, the minutes of the August 28, 2025 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report for the period 8/25/25 to 9/23/25

TRUIST CHECKING

Previous checking balance as of 8/25/25: \$13,606.15
Income Items: 9/2/25 - J SHORT reimbursement: \$209.99
Income for the period: \$209.99

Expense items: Check #1021 8/29/25 – Transfer to Fulton 0877: \$11,250.00
Expense items for the period: \$11,250.00

Truist Checking balance as of 9/23/25: \$2,566.14

Pending check payments: Chubb Liability Policy Premium 9/17/25; due 10/7/25: \$1,766.00

TRUIST CREDIT CARD

Credit card balance as of 9/23/2025: None
Credit Card Charges: None
Total CC charges paid as of 8/25/25: None

Pending CC charges: 9/23/25 - ZOOM PRO renewal (annual) \$169.49

Fulton Bank CDs

CD #576203 \$10,000.00 (redeemed early 9/2/2025): Net value \$10,310.95
Note – No CDs exist at Fulton as of 9/3/25.

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

08/25/25 – Ending Balance - \$1,288.67
08/29/25 – Deposit transfer from Truist 1824 - \$11,250.00
08/29/25 – Interest \$0.57
09/02/25 – Deposit of redeemed CD #576203 - \$10,310.95
09/02/25 – Check #103 - NTC Invoice #4 Pines Study - \$11,250.00
09/03/25 – Check #104 – Mark Slouf – Pines Study fee - \$8000.00
09/23/25 – Ending Balance - \$3,600.19

John is expecting to receive the \$25,000 reimbursement from the grant soon.

Upon motion by Rich Phifer, seconded by Kathleen Goodier, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

Old Business

Inter-Governmental Cooperative Agreement

Rich Phifer stated the form has been effectively approved by Pennsbury Township and he is waiting for an official signed copy of the document.

Insurance Coverage

Rich Phifer stated that the coverage has now been executed and is in place.

BVNSB

- a. **Website Development (Status Update)** – no new updates
- b. **DCED Marketing to Attract Tourists Grant** – see below
- c. **Enhancement of Local Community Values (General Discussion)** – David asked that we table this discussion to next month in the interest of time. David then asked the Commission members to think about what the Commission wants in terms of long-term goals and to bring those ideas to the table for the discussion next month.

HTUGRR

- a. HTUGRR Interpretive Trail (VPP Grant) – John mentioned that the Vision Partnership grant agreement was cancelled. John met with John Snook, Mark Slough and other stakeholders, to formalize Trail 1. John mentioned that the focus would be on tourism. The NTC will release a draft of Trail 1 and the trail would be presented to the four member municipalities that participated in the Vision Partnership Grant. John stated that the County would reconvene the Vision Partnership Task force to create a driving tour of the Tubman Byway. John added that the county did not invite the BVSBC Commission or its members. David will be attending the Zoom meeting at the request of his Township. Maree mentioned that the work completed and content created for the Commission as part of the grant is the property of the Commission. Maree will finalize the work completed and forward it to the Commission by the end of next week. John suggested that we present the completed work to the BVSBC member Townships. Discussion ensued regarding potential confusion over two versions of the Tubman Byway. It was generally agreed that this did not pose a large concern. David asked if Crystal Compton had any insights. Crystal felt that the area of the Brandywine near the Brandywine River Museum and the waterway itself was integral to the Tubman Byway experience. Discussion ensued that the Tubman trails may be more extensive than just the southeast portion of the county. Crystal mentioned that KURC was invited along with other pertinent stakeholders.
- b. DCED Marketing to Attract Tourists Grant Opportunity – Maree stated that she was contacted by the Pennsylvania Tourism Bureau and that the Byway would be perfect for a grant opportunity. Maree suggested that both Byways apply for the grant opportunity. Maree suggested that the Commission discuss what their goals are with respect to the goal of Tourism as it relates to the Byway. John asked how much money would be involved. Maree stated that the grant opportunity would be in the neighborhood of 55,000, with half of that money being reserved for influencers.

Walkable Chadds Ford

Kathleen mentioned that construction is now underway. 86 piers have been poured and the new asphalt trail construction is underway. For more information, refer to this website for updates relating to construction: (<https://www.chaddsfordpa.gov/board-supervisors/page/walkable-chadds-ford-trail-project-update>)

BVSBC Kennett Township Project “The Pines”

- a. Planning Study (AACHAF Grant Awarded) - Maree stated that John has a pdf copy of the final version that will be submitted shortly. The deadline is in November, but John anticipates that the final version will be submitted to AACHF in the first week of October.
- b. DCED LSA Statewide Grant Application (Pending) – There are no new updates and no grant announcements will be announced until after the state budget impasse is settled.

BVSBC Corridor Signage

Twin Bridges Plaque (status update). John mentioned that a response has been issued, but the response was somewhat disappointing. PennDOT is generally unresponsive with respect to any meaningful communication. Kathleen mentioned that Susan Hamley with the Chester County

Visitor's Bureau would be adding signs with the Commission's input, but no firm details or dates have been finalized.

National Scenic Byway Foundation

Rich stated that Tina was our marketing contact and that a new point person would need to be considered.

New Business

Christiana Historical Society – John mentioned that the Christiana Uprising was being celebrated on September 11. John mentioned that the Uprising was considered by many to be the start of the Civil War. John gave presentation of the uprising. John mentioned that there are multiple efforts with respect to the Tubman Byway and it would be wise to stay involved in the various efforts. John joined the Christiana Historical Society to stay in touch with their efforts. Rich moved to approve the 25-dollar membership registration fee. David Scranton seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the expenditure.

Adjournment

Upon motion by Rich Phifer, seconded by John Haedrich, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

The Commission entered into an Executive Session.

Next meeting – October 23, 2025