

Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway Commission
Thursday, May 28, 2026, 7:00 PM (both In-person at CFT and ZOOM)
ZOOM Meeting ID: 821 8809 6561 Passcode: 230057

ZOOM Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82188096561?pwd=S9QnAWBrSLWmIjxhGTnsaWbYJrYN2U.1>

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

David Scranton (Pocopson Township, Chester County) – Chair, via Zoom
Rich Phifer (East Bradford Township, Chester County) – Vice Chair, via Zoom
John Haedrich (Kennett Township, Chester County) – Treasurer, via Zoom
Kate Morgenstern (Kennett Township, Chester County), via Zoom
Kathleen Goodier (Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County), via Zoom
Helene Badeau (Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County), via Zoom
Elizabeth Moro (Pennsbury Township, Chester County), via Zoom
Scott Van Alstyne (Pennsbury Township, Chester County), via Zoom
Sarah Mims (Pocopson Township, Chester County), via Zoom
Maree Forbes Gaughan (Advisor, National Travel Center), via Zoom
Janet Flynn (PennDOT), via Zoom

Public:

Crystal Crampton (KURC), via Zoom

Absent:

Jim Haigney (East Bradford Township, Chester County) - Secretary

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by David Scranton at 7:00 pm.

Review & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Kathleen Goodier, seconded by Rich Phifer, the minutes of the April 23, 2026 meeting were unanimously approved, subject to one correction to the Announcements section.

Review & Approval of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for the period 4/21/2026 to 5/23/2026

TRUIST CHECKING ...1824

Previous checking balance as of 4/21/26: \$4,778.70

Income for the period: - None

Expense items:

5/21/26 – Transfer to TRUIST 7270 - \$3,778.70

5/22/26 – Transfer to TRUIST 7270 - \$1,000.00

Total expense: \$4,778.70

Truist Checking balance as of 5/23/26: ZERO [account closed on 5/22/26].

Pending check payments: None

TRUIST CHECKING ...7270

Previous checking balance as of 4/21/26: \$500.00

Income for the period:

5/21/26 – Transfer from TRUIST 1824 - \$3,778.70

5/22/26 – Transfer from TRUIST 1824 - \$1,000.00

Total Income: \$4,778.70

Expense items:

5/10/26 – Truist 5300 Credit Card - \$15.69 (Checks)

Truist Checking balance as of 5/23/26: \$5,278.70

Pending checks/payments: \$114.35 (CC..5300)

TRUIST CREDIT CARD – Pending

5/17/26 – Quicken Annual Subscription [Subscription Paid thru 5/16/27] – \$114.35 to be paid

6/10/26

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

Previous balance as of 3/23/26 – \$8,331.82

4/30/26 – Interest - \$2.74

5/23/26 – Ending Balance - \$8,334.56

Fulton Bank CDs

CD5 - \$3,014.88 (paid 5/4/26)

CD6 - \$3,014.88 (paid 5/4/26)

CD7 - \$3,014.88 (paid 5/4/26)

CD8 - \$3,014.88 (paid 5/4/26)

CD9 - \$3,014.88 (paid 5/4/26)

5/23/26 – Total CDs - \$15,074.40 (2.96% APR)

Total Assets as of 5/23/26

Truist 1824 \$ 0

Truist 7270 \$5,278.70

Fulton MMA \$ 8,334.56

Fulton CDs \$15,074.40

TOTAL \$28,687.66 as of 5/23/26

Upon motion by Kathleen Goodier, seconded by Sarah Mims, the Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

Old Business

Committee Reports

Strategic Planning Committee

There was nothing to report from the Strategic Planning Committee.

Scenic Byway Committee

Mr. Phifer provided an update on the status of the new Scenic Byway website. Maree Forbes Gaughan reported that the National Travel Center had evaluated nearly a dozen no-cost mapping applications for the interactive map proposed for the "For Your Drive" page of the website. None of the options reviewed were deemed suitable. The Commission discussed the merits of an interactive map versus a static map. Kate Morgenstern noted that Kennett Township would soon be welcoming a summer GIS intern who could develop a static map for the website at no cost to the Commission using the Township's ArcGIS software. Janet Flynn offered to assist the effort through PennDOT by providing GIS data if needed. Mr. Phifer reported that the Committee expects to discuss website rollout and press release timing at its June meeting.

Ms. Badeau informed the Commission that the Mother Archie's property had recently received a historic preservation award from the Delaware County Heritage Commission and wished to make the Commission aware of the recognition.

Ms. Forbes Gaughan also reported that she had connected with Sharon Strouse of the National Scenic Byway Foundation regarding an update to the Scenic Byway map displayed on the Foundation's website. Ms. Strouse expressed a willingness to work with the Commission on that effort. The Committee will follow up on the matter at its June meeting.

Public Relations/America250 Committee

There was nothing to report from the Public Relations/America250 Committee.

HTUGRR Byway Committee

Mr. Haedrich provided an update on recent activities of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway Committee. He reported that Heritage Interpretive Trail No. 1 has been completed and that a final copy was distributed to the Commission earlier in the month. The Commission expressed a desire to formally endorse the completed trail. Upon motion by Mr. Haedrich, seconded by Mr. Scranton, Heritage Interpretive Trail No. 1 was approved unanimously.

Mr. Haedrich noted that Heritage Interpretive Trails Nos. 2 and 3 remain future initiatives. Promotion of the Heritage Interpretive Trail program and related resources is expected to occur primarily through the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway website. He further emphasized the importance of continuing to integrate and coordinate Underground Railroad Byway efforts with partner organizations and byway programs in Delaware and Maryland.

Mr. Haedrich then discussed the Commission's ongoing interest in The Pines property and its collaboration with Kennett Township and the Kennett Underground Railroad Center (KURC). He reported that the Kennett Township Historical Commission is expected to play a role in visioning and planning for the future of The Pines property. Mr. Haedrich suggested that the Commission consider designating a representative to participate in those planning discussions as they move forward.

Finally, Mr. Haedrich provided updates regarding conversations with other Underground Railroad-related initiatives throughout Pennsylvania, as well as the status of a broader effort being undertaken by the Chester County Planning Commission to document and interpret Underground Railroad resources within Chester County.

BVNSB Partnership

Ms. Moro provided an update regarding the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway Partnership. She reported that Partnership Chair John Danzeisen was encouraged by the outcomes of the recent annual meeting and remains enthusiastic about the Partnership's ongoing initiatives. Ms. Moro noted that Mr. Danzeisen is currently out of the country but that she will remain in contact with him and keep the Commission informed of any relevant developments.

Signage

Mr. Scranton discussed the potential formation of a small working group to advance the Commission's byway signage efforts. Janet Flynn reported that PennDOT can provide standard scenic byway signs at no cost and also offers other signage options that may be available at additional cost. However, she noted that the standard signs currently available do not identify the byway by name, an issue that PennDOT continues to evaluate at the state level.

The Commission discussed the importance of pursuing signage that more clearly identifies the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway. Mr. Scranton, Mr. Van Alstyne, Ms. Goodier, and Mr. Phifer expressed a willingness to participate in a working group to further explore signage opportunities and develop recommendations for the Commission's consideration.

New Business

Dropbox Account

Mr. Scranton reported that he had intended to discuss the storage capacity of the Commission's Dropbox account and the potential need for additional storage. However, with assistance from Mr. Haedrich, a solution was identified that will allow the Commission to continue utilizing its existing storage resources without incurring additional subscription costs. As a result, no further action is required at this time.

Advisor Appointment for 2026

The Commissioners entered Executive Session to discuss the appointment of an advisor for 2026. No formal action was taken during Executive Session.

Announcements and Public Comment

Ms. Morgenstern announced Kennett Township's upcoming Community Day celebration in recognition of America250, scheduled for August 29, 2026. This year's event will feature a "Step Back in Time" theme highlighting local history and heritage.

Additionally, it was announced that Ms. Crampton will be speaking at the Brandywine Baptist Church on June 7, 2026. Ms. Crampton also invited Commissioners to attend the Juneteenth commemorative events planned in Kennett Square on June 20, 2026.

Adjournment

Upon motion by Rich Phifer, seconded by Kathleen Goodier, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Next meeting – June 25, 2026