



**HAVERFORD CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes  
February 9, 2021**

*Hala Imms ran the meeting via a Zoom video call because of the pandemic.*

*Attending:* Hala Imms, Lorraine Jones, Anne Mezey, Lee Tabas, Mo Gillen, Andy Orr, Robert Bocchino, Anne Mezey, Karin Shapiro, Tom Wilkinson  
*Commissioners:* Scott Zelov, Anthony Stevenson, Ray Courtney  
*Invited Guests:* Adrian Seltzer, Jamie Mogil

Hala Imms presided and Lee Tabas took the minutes.

Lorraine Jones gave the treasurer's report. We have a current balance of \$3,685.09 in the bank. We have fully paid for the snowflakes, with the Township contributing \$800. Lee Tabas commented that in our new bylaws, there is a provision for an annual review of the bank records by the Audit Committee. He volunteers to serve as a member of the Audit Committee. The bylaws call for 2 members, so as soon as a second person volunteers, the Audit Committee can work with Treasurer Lorraine Jones to review the bank records. We have a requirement that checks over \$500 require two signatures. Lee suggests that the Committee review the 2020 bank statements to verify that expenditures were approved and that any checks in excess of \$500 have two signatures.

Since Ann Mezey had not joined the meeting at that point, Hala Imms reported on the Federation of Civics. She mentioned plans for electric auto charging stations in Wynnewood. There were also discussions about City Line redevelopment. While not in the Township, the Hanging Rock Construction Project does affect travel in the area. The construction closure is on South Gulf Road (Route 320) between Upper Gulph Road/Old Gulph Road and Arden Road in Gulf Mills until approximately November 2021.

President Imms introduced Jamie Mogil, who is an attorney in private practice and Voter Services Chair for the League of Women Voters. Ms. Mogil was assisted by Adrian Seltzer, also representing the League. A PowerPoint presentation followed.

There are 67 counties in Pennsylvania.

Lower Merion is a first-class township with 14 wards. There are approximately 60,000 residents in the Township. We are the largest municipality in Montgomery County. We have 9 school board directors.

Pennsylvania has Supreme, Superior, Commonwealth, Common Pleas, and District courts. We are one of only nine states that still elect judges. Once elected, most are retained by a yes or no vote every ten years. There is a retirement age of 75. District justices are not required to be lawyers.

Ms. Mogil went over the various dates to file to vote by mail and to register to vote in the primary election May 18, 2021. The latest date to file to vote by mail is May 11, 2021, while the last day to register to vote in the primary is May 3, 2021.

At the primary, we will be voting for even number ward commissioners, as well as 4 school directors, tax collector, 3 district justices, 5 judges of other courts. There will also be a ballot

question, which is still to be finalized by the Attorney General concerning reducing the executive power of the governor.

All present thanked Ms. Mogil and Ms. Seltzer for the informative presentation.

Mo Gillen gave a brief update on the social media for the Civic Association. We continue to be on Facebook. One new member joined the association since the last meeting.

The question was raised as to whether we should be posting COVID information. The consensus was that there is too much required to keep current in this type of posting, and we should refer to others for COVID information.

The topic on a Flower Container Contest was tabled since Jane Carton was not able to join the meeting.

President Imms next led a discussion on the recent snow and any issues regarding clean up. The Township has a requirement that sidewalks be shoveled within 24 hours, or owners will be subject to up to a \$600 fine. In reality, Commissioner Scott Zelov mentioned that owners have at least 48 hours to clean up before receiving a fine. First there are 24 hours following the end of the snowfall, and then another 24 hours after notices, which are given out by the Lower Merion Police are posted. Anne Mezey mentioned that Septa and Amtrak are not removing snow under the railroad bridges. Commissioner Anthony Stevenson is working on it. Businesses need to be reminded that not only do they need to clear the parking lots, but they also need to clean the sidewalks. Approximately 200 warnings were issued following the recent snowfall where sidewalks were not cleaned. Commissioner Scott Zelov reminded the Civic Association that the Township has a "LM Report It" app for reporting safety issues. Other than that, residents may contact their commissioner or the Lower Merion Police.

President Hala Imms next discussed bamboo. She stated that the Lower Merion Certificate of Occupancy, which is used before real estate transfers, has added a question as to whether there is bamboo on the property in question. The purpose of this is to make the buyer aware of the presence of bamboo. Measures necessary to control bamboo are expensive and extensive.

The Association next discussed the Pennswood Bridge reconstruction. Currently, workers are constructing a temporary structure to carry utilities from one side to the other side of the bridge. The bridge abutment (support) on the Lancaster Avenue side is being constructed. The abutment on the Montgomery Avenue side is finished. The next step will be removal of the old bridge structure so a new one may be erected. The completion date is on schedule, and is May of 2022.

Commissioner Reports Followed:

- Commissioner Anthony Stevenson discussed briefly the development planned for 355 W. Lancaster Avenue. Commissioner Stevenson said that a tentative sketch plan was approved by the commissioners. The developer continues to fill in details for the additional required approvals which will probably be in the fall of the year.
- Commissioner Ray Courtney discussed 121 City Avenue redevelopment (Lord and Taylor). This is a very large redevelopment and there are exceptions being requested.

Commissioner Courtney also brought up the development planned for 3 Elmwood Road which affects both Wynnewood and Narberth. It is a plan to keep the existing house and to add 3 twin houses.

The middle school fields proposed for Villanova are tabled for the moment, as the School District needs to modify plans.

The Arnold Field lights question is set to go to the Zoning Board on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

- Commissioner Scott Zelov stated that there is a Lancaster Avenue Master Plan under development. There will be lots of opportunity for public input on this.

Commissioner Zelov mentioned that there was an MLK volunteer day at Harriton. About 75 volunteers were present to pull vines and do other work.

Negotiations are ongoing with the Fraternal Order of Police to extend the contract between the Township and the police. There is no provision for police to strike.

The Association was reminded that Lower Merion has a forgivable Business Loan Program for which businesses may apply which may be attractive in these times. Additionally, there is a Township homeowner mortgage and repair assistance program available.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.