



**Warwick Township Historical Commission
Minutes
April 21, 2025**

Members Present: David Lignore, Karl Snyder, Matt Tongiani, Janet Gebhardt

Call to Order: David Lignore called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Approval of Minutes: Karl Snyder made a motion to approve the HC minutes of March 17, 2025. Matt Tongiani seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Public Comment: There was no Public Comment this evening.

Applications: 1] Mr. Dan Kessler, Hope Tree Properties, LLC, 3661 Saint Peters Road, Elverson, PA 19520, R10 Residential One Family Zoning District, 1 lot on Troop Hill, is applying to replace the existing windows with Lansing Majesty 2 over 2 (vertical divider) aluminum clad exterior (Almond), pine interior, Energy Star rated windows. Pictures were distributed to help describe the application details. Also discussed was the painting of the exterior stucco and trim now with the same color as the existing paint.

Karl Snyder made a motion to approve the application as submitted. Matt Tongiani seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The submitted pictures and application were signed by both David Lignore and Dan Kessler.

2] Mr. Matthew Tongiani, 1150 Warwick Furnace Road, Glenmoore, PA, 19343, Class 1 structure, National Historic District, is applying to



replace the existing barn roof with a 24 gauge hand-formed standing seam metal roof in Sheffield Metals Antique Bronze (to match the roof on the addition on the back of the home) with no ridge cap, to be crimped at the top, with the weathervane reinstalled on the new roof. There is a possibility of replacing the aluminum gutters with copper gutters.

David Lignore made a motion to approve the application as submitted. Karl Snyder seconded the motion. The motion was approved. David Lignore and Matt Tongiani signed the application.

Iron Bridge Discussion: Karl Snyder gave a report of the discussion from the last Board of Supervisors meeting regarding the proposed Rehabilitation of the Chester County Bridge No. 199, located at Warwick Furnace Road over South Branch of the French Creek, also known as the Iron Bridge. There were 5 representatives present from Chester County.

A proposal is to put support beams under the bridge with a weight limit of 40 tons. The proposal is to make the bridge 5' wider than it is at present. With proposed bumpers, the bridge would be almost 15' wider. One person, who is the engineer, stated that if we want any funding from the state, PennDot would require a two-lane bridge, making it 25' wide from guardrail to guardrail (it is 15' now). It was stated that the trusses are actually beginning to fail, so the proposed beams would support the weight for the bridge.

Although the bridge is not yet on the Historical Registry, it is being treated as "Eligible" because it does meet all of the criteria necessary to be on the Registry.



East Nantmeal HC (as stated by Maureen Noonan) and Warwick HC are in agreement that the bridge needs to be kept at one lane. We will need to talk to PennDot. It is strongly felt that the bridge should remain a one-lane bridge in order to maintain the integrity of the historic value of the bridge. One point made was that guardrails are needed because of the number of vehicles using the bridge. The last study completed indicated the daily number of vehicles using the bridge at 406, with the cutoff at 400 to determine the need for two lanes. Since that time, the Iron Bridge has been removed from Google Maps as a normal route through the county, which most likely has lowered the average number of vehicles using the bridge considerably. A new study should be done.

The painting of the bridge could also be a problem, as no paint or concrete or any substances can go into the water. As Chester County has the responsibility for the bridge, and Warwick Township has the responsibility for the roads, PennDot would need to work with us.

Several ideas were to post signs regarding the Local Truck Ordinance not just at the Bridge but also on roads leading to the Iron Bridge so that alternative routes could be used, keeping communication open with the County, Township, and PennDot, contacting Representative Paul Friel regarding this situation, and sending letters to the County regarding the ideas of the Warwick Township and East Nantmeal Boards of Supervisors.

Another suggestion was that Warwick Township should join the Chester County Historic Preservation Network; Eileen Cameron said she would check into this, and discuss with the Board of Supervisors. Maureen Noonan suggested we contact David Blackburn of the Preservation Network, and the Chester County Facilities Department and Eric Quinn. It was also suggested that the Board of Supervisors meet to discuss the Iron Bridge situation further.



America 250: Colleen Patton, Warwick Township Administrator, had attended a Chester County meeting to learn more about the County preparations for the upcoming America 250 Celebration in 2026. She provided all with a copy of the slide presentation.

Discussion was held regarding ideas for Warwick Township's planning for the America 250 events. The theme of the America 250 is "Where were you 250 years ago?"

1. Carriage rides are being given again this year, and the gentleman doing the carriage rides would like to make the route longer and bigger for the celebration.
2. Another suggestion was to ask Dan Graham, author of the book about the historic cannons recovered to be a speaker at an event to detail the process of finding and recovering and preserving the cannons.
3. The possibility of applying for an historic marker for the cannon site was mentioned.
4. We should have a dialog with the Bentley family as to what ideas they might have regarding the historic properties and structures that could be featured, as well as the cannons. For example, apparently one of the Bentley houses was the hospital for George Washington's troops.
5. Books by other authors, such as Estelle Cremers, could be offered for sale at the Township Building or at our tent during the Fall Fest in Warwick Park.
6. Tours of the lavender fields could be a possibility.
7. Warwick Township citizens could be asked to share any historic pictures, letters, or other unique items for display. Eileen Cameron shared that we need "better" pictures to hang in the Township Building, as well as better display cases to display items "on loan".
8. Several names were suggested of Township Citizens who might be willing to help coordinate our America 250 celebration.



Discussions will continue to refine the details of the America 250 Celebration in Warwick Township.

Adjournment: David Lignore adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet H. Gebhardt, Secretary
Warwick Township Historical Commission