

UPPER ALLEN TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
August 20, 2024

MEMBERS

Matthew Taylor, Chairperson (absent)
Natasha Adler, Vice-Chairperson
Susan Sears
John Esser
Christina Rockey
Frank Grottola, UAT Building Inspector (absent)

TOWNSHIP STAFF

Jennifer Boyer, Comm. Develop. Director
Scott Finkenbiner, Planning Technician

Board of Commissioners Liaison

Commissioner Kenneth Martin
Commissioner Phil Walsh

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Upper Allen Township Historical Architectural Review Board was called to order on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at 7:05 PM at the Upper Allen Township Municipal Building. Roll Call was taken by Vice-Chair Adler. Chair Taylor and Mr. Grottola were noted as being absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Esser to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2023, meeting. The **MOTION** was seconded by Ms. Sears. The **MOTION** carried unanimously. (4-0)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Interview with Joe Botchie, candidate for vacant architect position on HARB.

Mr. Botchie began by providing a brief overview of his background including his education at Penn State, his work as an architect, his work on the capitol building, the number of different state certifications he has held (12 different states from Mass to Florida), and finally that he is semi-retired from Gannett Flemming.

Commissioner Walsh asked Mr. Botchie to explain his knowledge of the Upper Allen Historic Districts and the future challenges the districts will face. Mr. Botchie stated that he wants to ensure all current and future residents and property owners within the historic districts are aware that they reside or own property within a historic district, and to identify and preserve historic properties which are not located within a historic district.

Commissioner Martin asked Mr. Botchie what his opinion of the current historic districts in Upper Allen Township and how many districts the township should have. Mr. Botchie stated that he believes that the township should maintain three districts, removing the Rosegarden District, because the purpose of the Rosegarden district was to protect the mill, which is no longer there. The other three districts still have significance and should remain.

Commissioner Martin then asked Mr. Botchie why he chose the HARB in Upper Allen Township since he lives in Lower Allen Township. Mr. Botchie explained that Lower Allen does not have any historic districts, he lived in Upper Allen Township for 38 years before moving to Lower Allen, there

is no requirement for HARB members to reside in the township, and he does not believe that community should be separated by borders.

Ms. Rockey asked Mr. Botchie if he had any ideas on how HARB should educate residents about living in a historic district. Mr. Botchie stated that he liked Commissioner Walsh's idea of providing a plaque to historic district residents. Commissioner Walsh interjected that the township recently sent out a card as a reminder to the historic district residents that they live in a historic district and some of the requirements that entails. Mr. Botchie continued saying that the top priority of HARB should be to do things that educate and remind residents before utilizing enforcement.

No public comment.

A **MOTION** was made by Ms. Rockey to recommend appointing Mr. Botchie to the HARB. The **MOTION** was seconded by Vice-Chair Adler. The **MOTION** carried unanimously (4-0).

OTHER BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kevin Shaw of 711 E Winding Hill Road discussed the creation of a historical society for the township and updating the "Early Architecture in Upper Allen Township" book for its 50-year anniversary in 2026. Mr. Shaw also noted that although the Lincoln Cemetery was approved to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which would allow for a Pennsylvania Historical Marker to be added, no one has filled out the application for it. Finally, Mr. Shaw explained that it is his belief that the younger generations, specifically kids in school, should be educated about local history.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Vice-Chair Adler made a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. The **MOTION** was seconded by Mr. Esser. The **MOTION** carried unanimously (4-0). The meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.