Haverford Civic Association
Lower Merion Township

Board Meeting Minutes April 8, 2025

Attendees:

Catherine Abrams, Anthony Arechavala, Charles Ault, Robert Borchino, Barbara Cohen, Maria Cuellar, Charlie Davis, Julie Figures, Justin Humphreys, Hala Imms, Anne Mezey, Marie Stevens, Anthony Stevenson, Lee Tabas, Scott Zelov

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Charlie Davis.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes of the March 11, 2025, meeting, by Charlie Davis, seconded by Barbara Cohen – passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Lee Tabas reported an ending balance of $5,935.87.

Commissioners' Report:

Commissioner Scott Zelov presented the monthly traffic metrics compiled by the Lower Merion Police Department:

- 3/12/25 – 36 citations, 2 warnings, 17 equipment notices; speeding violations on the Haverford Section of Lancaster Avenue and Montgomery Avenue in Penn Valley .
- 3/19/25 – 36 citations, 2 warnings, 5 equipment notices; speeding violations issued on Montgomery Avenue in Rosemont, Montgomery Avenue in Penn Valley and a school zone in front of Shipley.
- 3/26/25 – 29 citations, 2 warnings, 15 equipment notices; speeding violations issued on Montgomery Avenue in Bala Cynwyd, Montgomery Avenue in Penn Valley and a school zone in front of Shipley.
- 4/2/25 – 30 citations, 2 warnings, 5 equipment notices; speeding violations in the Haverford Section of Lancaster Avenue, Montgomery Avenue in Rosemont and a school zone in front of Merion Elementary.

Commissioner Zelov also reported that Lower Merion's redistricting has been approved by a Montgomery County court. He said the township will notify you if your polling place changed due to the redrawing of ward lines.

Commissioner Anthony Stevenson, who is not seeking another term to represent Ward 4, said Nahjee Grant and Charles B. Gregory have filed to run for his seat in the

Democrat primary. Commissioner Zelov added that Republican Tad Ward is the only Republican to file in Ward 4. Zelov is running unopposed for his Ward 10 seat.

Commissioner Zelov also reported on a failed strong-arm robbery at the TD Bank in Haverford on April 8. An 84-year-old man was injured in a struggle but held off his much younger assailant, and the suspect fled the scene.

Update on 527 Old Lancaster Avenue:

Julie Figures made a second appearance at HCA after the Lower Merion Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) failed to approve her proposed renovations to a distressed property on Old Lancaster Avenue in Haverford. Figures said it's the seventh time she's had to go back to the drawing board after multiple revisions failed to win approval. The property she's attempting to redevelop is a small corner lot with an existing structure dating to the 1850s. It's located in a historic district but is not itself a historic structure.

Haverford Station Report:

HCA Board member Catherine Abrams reported on a Zoom meeting with AMTRAK representative Steven Segerlin to discuss the rail authority's plans for the historic Haverford Station. She was joined by HCA Board member Hala Imms and Commissioner Scott Zelov. Abrams said AMTRAK is not interested in fixing up the deteriorating Haverford structures but wants to find a private developer to rehab both Haverford and Rosemont stations in tandem, including building a multi-modal, transit-oriented complex at Haverford.

HCA asked Abrams to form an exploratory group of interested local stakeholders to press for more realistic options to rehabilitate our historic rail stations and revitalize commercial activities there.

Audit Committee Report:

The audit committee found no irregularities.

Membership Committee Report:

HCA Secretary Charles Ault reported the Association's email list now hovers around 193 subscribers (it changes monthly due to the addition of new subscribers and the loss of existing ones), and paid membership stands at 82, including nine local businesses and institutions.

Traffic Calming Report:

HCA Board member Barbara Cohen reported on a possible funding opportunity for fiscal year 2025 from the U.S. Department of Transportation and urged Lower Merion to start a drawdown of its approved 2024 funding for the Montgomery Avenue traffic study.

She also pointed out that the township's traffic calming policy is mostly concerned with roadway engineering and devices to slow traffic speeds. Currently such implementations must be approved by 80 percent of affected residents. Lowering that

threshold may be something for the township's Ad Hoc Traffic Calming Committee to consider, she added.

Budget Committee:

Charlie Davis, Lee Tabas and Anne Mezey will need time to collect additional data before presenting a budget proposal.

Snowflake Lights Report:

Charlie Davis said a decision on an upgrade of the snowflake lights on Haverford's stretch of Lancaster Avenue will wait until the Budget Committee completes its work. Anthony Arechavala volunteered to help solicit bids for the project.

Federation of Civics Report:

HCA Delegate Anne Mezey reported the Federation plans to cover a range of topics at its next meeting, including

• Lower Merion commissioners' decision to put on their 2025 priorities list lobbying the state legislature to allow local jurisdictions to use radar to enforce speed limits, and

• considering whether a property should be declared "historic" without the consent of the owner.

Historical Society Visit:

Charlie Davis suggested a Sunday in June for a possible outing to the Lower Merion Historical Society headquarters. He will contact the Historical Society and report back.

Good of the Order Announcements:

Catherine Abrams met with Lower Merion's sustainability officer, Paloma Vila, and a representative of the Haverford College Arboretum to discuss plans for possible collaborative activities.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Next Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, May 13