



Board Meeting Minutes May 13, 2025

Attendees:

Catherine Abrams, Anthony Arechavala, Charles Ault, Sherri Ball, Ted Blandy, Barbara Cohen, Charlie Davis, Hala Imms, Anne Mezey, John McIntyre, Lee Tabas, Scott Zelov

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Charlie Davis.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes of the April 8, 2025, meeting, by Lee Tabas, seconded by Catherine Abrams – passed.

Treasurer's Report:

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

Commissioners' Report:

No report this month from the Lower Merion Police, but Commissioner Scott Zelov said the township has begun drawing down funds for a comprehensive traffic study the entire length of Montgomery Avenue within the township. He also noted that the township has PennDOT approval to install a red-light camera at the Lancaster Avenue/Haverford Station Road intersection. Two other locations have been approved and four more may be in the works.

Commissioner Zelov also reported that electric vehicle chargers will be installed in Lower Merion's Lot 7 parking facility in Byn Mawr as part of a renovation including replacement of a wrought iron fence.

He warned that SEPTA's planned service cuts, including the Paoli/Thorndale Line serving Lower Merion, "would be devastating for this township." The service cutbacks would go into effect if the State Legislature failed to fully fund the regional transit agency. Commissioner Zelov said both the Lower Merion and Montgomery County boards of commissioners have called on the legislature to pass permanent funding for SEPTA.

In light of Commissioner Anthony Stevenson not seeking reelection to another term and Commissioner Ray Courtney not having appeared at HCA meetings for some time, Charlie Davis was asked to re-invite Commissioner Courtney to speak at HCA Board meetings.

Statement Opposing Historical Designation

Following discussion of the nomination of 17 Elliott Avenue in Bryn Mawr as a Class I historic structure against the wishes of the property owner, the following motion opposing the designation was proposed:

It is the position of the Board of Directors of Haverford Civic Association that Lower Merion Township should not confer the Class I historical structure designation on a property against the wishes of the owner, unless the township can demonstrate a compelling (i.e., an overriding and extraordinary) public purpose for doing so. We believe there is no such compelling need and therefore oppose assigning a Class I designation to the property at 17 Elliott Avenue, Bryn Mawr.

Motion by Lee Tabas, seconded by Catherine Abrams – passed.

Charlie Davis will submit a copy of the motion to the Lower Merion Commissioners.

Candidate Forum:

Charlie Davis was authorized to organize a public forum for all candidates in the May 20 primary election for Lower Merion Township Commissioner for Ward 4, which includes most of Ardmore and part of Haverford. The forum will be jointly sponsored by Haverford and Ardwood civic associations on May 15 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Ardmore.

Budget Committee:

Charlie Davis presented an analysis of HCA's finances for 2024 and projections for 2025. Given the prospect of a \$10,000 to \$15,000 campaign to fund replacement of the seasonal Snowflake lights on the Haverford section of Lancaster Avenue, adoption of a 2025 annual budget was deferred pending additional research on costs and potential alternative strategies to refurbish the lights.

Membership Committee Report:

HCA Secretary Charles Ault distributed the report of monthly social media outreach efforts and noted that average monthly email subscriptions have topped 200. He is still asking for a volunteer to administer the HCA Facebook page.

Traffic Calming Report:

HCA Board member Barbara Cohen called for a campaign in support of two bills currently in the State Senate that would allow, but not mandate, use of radar by municipal police departments. Pennsylvania is the only state that does not allow this; current law lets only the PA State Police use radar.

Cohen reported she, Charlie Davis and HCA Board member Catherine Abrams met with Lower Merion Commissioner Anthony Stevenson at the corner of Lancaster Avenue and Haverford Station Road to point out that the pedestrian walk signal had not been restored after a renovation. They also noted the need for a left turn signal at the intersection.

Snowflake Lights Report:

The Board deferred action on approving a \$1,500 expense to partially renovate the Snowflake lights on Lancaster Avenue.

Federation of Civics Report:

Due to time constraints, the Federation report was postponed.

Historical Society Visit:

Lee Tabas will report back with proposed dates for an HCA outing to the Lower Merion Historical Society headquarters sometime in the fall.

Haverford Station Update:

HCA vice-president Catherine Abrams reported on options for Haverford Train Station renovations that came out of a meeting she and HCA Board members Lee Tabas, Hala Imms and Anne Mezey had with Chris Leswing and Greg Pritchard, Lower Merion Township Planning and Building Department officers. HCA can:

1. do nothing and allow AMTRAK to move forward with development plans (which they may not pursue) or
2. explore ways to independently fund restoration.

According to Pritchard, the township would back whichever option HCA adopts.

Good of the Order Announcements:

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Next Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, June 10