

Thornbury Township Historical Preservation Commission Charter

Introduction

Thornbury Township is fortunate to possess a rich collection of historic homes, farms, landscapes, and cultural resources that contribute significantly to the character of our community. The Historical Preservation Commission exists to help preserve these assets through education, collaboration, and practical assistance fostering our shared heritage.

1. Purpose

The Commission exists to identify, preserve, protect, and promote the Township's historic resources while serving as an educational resource for residents, property owners, Township officials, and the broader community.

2. Mission

Support the preservation, protection, restoration, and appreciation of Thornbury Township's historic character through education, community engagement, and practical guidance. The Commission seeks to make historic preservation practical, approachable, and rewarding by connecting homeowners with information, experienced artisans, and preservation resources.

Commission Philosophy

The Commission believes that the most successful preservation efforts occur through education, collaboration, and practical assistance. Our goal is to be a trusted resource for homeowners/residents by connecting them with reliable information, preservation best practices, and experienced craftspeople who can help maintain and restore the unique character of Thornbury Township's historic homes and resources. We strive to encourage preservation through partnership, not regulation, recognizing that informed and engaged property owners are the Township's greatest stewards of its historic heritage.

3. Vision

Thornbury Township will be recognized as a community where historic homes, farms, landscapes, and cultural resources are thoughtfully preserved and appreciated for future generations

4. Role of the Commission

The Historical Preservation Commission serves in an advisory and educational capacity and is not a regulatory or enforcement body except as authorized by Township ordinance. The Commission shall:

- Review applications involving the modification or demolition of designated historic resources and provide recommendations consistent with applicable Township ordinances.
- Advise Township officials on matters affecting historic preservation, including resources that may be vulnerable to demolition, neglect, or inappropriate alteration, and recommend appropriate preservation strategies.
- Provide property owners with practical guidance, educational materials, and information on preservation techniques, qualified artisans, grants, and other available resources.
- Promote voluntary stewardship of historic properties through technical assistance, workshops, and educational outreach.
- Foster public appreciation of the Township's historic resources by hosting events, partnering with local historical organizations, schools, libraries, and community groups.
- Maintain and periodically update an inventory of significant historic resources.
- Recognize and encourage exemplary preservation efforts within the Township.
- Increase community awareness of the value of historic preservation through public education, programs, and recognition initiatives.

5. Membership Expectations

- Attend scheduled meetings regularly.
- Prepare for and actively participate in meetings and initiatives.
- Serve as ambassadors for historic preservation.
- Support the Commission's Mission and Values.

6. Organization & Roles

- Chair – Leadership and Township liaison
- Vice Chair – Support and coordination
- Members – Contribute to Commission initiatives and annual priorities.

7. Meetings

Regular meetings are posted on the township website at the Thornbury Township Building.

8. Annual Priorities

Establish two to four measurable annual priorities aligned with the Mission and review progress throughout the year.

9. Values

- Stewardship / Education / Integrity / Respect / Collaboration / Volunteerism

10. Measuring Success

- Community participation
- Educational outreach
- Homeowner engagement
- Recognition of preservation accomplishments

- Progress toward annual priorities

11. Commitment to the Community

Support residents in understanding, preserving, and taking pride in Thornbury Township's historic heritage through practical assistance, education, and responsible stewardship.

12. Governing Documents & References

- Applicable Thornbury Township Historic Preservation Ordinances
- Historic Resource Inventory
- Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Program
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties
- Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office

13. Adoption & Review

This Charter is intended to be a living document and may be reviewed and updated periodically.

14. Signatures

Victor Starr, Chair



Buz Conover



Alfred Lohmann



Randell Spackman



Paul Manidis

