

# COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

The Township's Commissions, Committees and Boards are essential to advising the Board of Supervisors to enable it to effectively and efficiently manage the Township, especially with respect to existing or planned residential or commercial development. However since our committees consist of volunteers, turnover will occur from time to time. Currently we have a number of committee openings. Additional information on the committees may be obtained from the Township's web site, [www.schuylkilltpw.org](http://www.schuylkilltpw.org), regarding dates of meetings, minutes of meetings, current members, terms of service, etc., and of course by attending committee meetings. Those residents who have an interest in participating in any of these committees are strongly encouraged to submit a letter of interest and resume to Mary Bird, our Township Manager.

## Planning Commission:

The basic role of the Commission, with assistance from the Township Engineer, is to: 1) review applicant plans for residential or commercial developments or construction; 2) recommend approval of the plans and associated variances, waivers or changes to Township ordinances to the Board of Supervisors. Residents with engineering, land planning or other technical professional experience are strongly encouraged to apply for this important Commission position.

Zoning Hearing Board: The Board's role, with the assistance of its Solicitor, is to conduct judicial hearings on the granting of variances or special exceptions to ordinances as requested by developers or individual residents. Recent hearings have shown that Board rulings can have significant precedent-setting impacts on the future interpretation of Township ordinances by developer applicants. Residents with engineering or technical professional experience are encouraged to apply for a Board position.

Environmental Advisory Council: The EAC reviews applicant plans for residential or commercial developments or construction from an environmental standpoint with respect to Township ordinances, especially regarding steep slopes, wetlands, trees and vegetation, and streams and riparian buffers. Residents with environmental or land planning experience, or significant interests in the same, are strongly encouraged to apply for a Council position.

Historical Commission: The Historical Commission is responsible for documenting the history of the Township. Currently about 200 older historic homes have been identified and placed on the township's Historic Resource list .

The Commission also has the responsibility to recommend protecting historic buildings from demolition where it is reasonable to do so, either as part of the development review process, or as part of a demolition by neglect situation. Residents with architectural, historical, or other related experience, or

who are concerned about preserving the historical character of the Township, are encouraged to apply.

Open Space Commission: The Open Space Commission is responsible for recommending the purchase of open space "interests" to the Board of Supervisors, which can either be a conservation easement, where the landowner retains title, or fee simple purchase, where the Township takes title. Residents with backgrounds in finance, real estate, environmental protection, open space preservation, or strong interests in the same, are encouraged to apply.

