



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Borough Council  
Mayor Burton

**FROM:** Malvern Historical Commission

**DATE:** March 2, 2021

**RE:** 2020 Report for the Malvern Historical Commission

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This report will provide a summary of the activity of the Malvern Historical Commission during the 2020 calendar year. Members of the Historical Commission during 2020 were as follows:

- Lynne Frederick, Chair
- Barbara Rutz, Vice-Chair
- Kel Schmitt, Secretary
- Catherine Raymond, Treasurer
- Zeyn Uzman
- Ian Duncan
- Barbara Stergiades

2020 started with the Historical Commission ready to go with plans for numerous public events. At our first meeting in January, we realized that the MBPA was not planning for a Malvern Blooms festival and likely would not have anyone in place to plan for the fall event either. As these events are the place where we can really interact with the public, the HC decided to display at some of the summer Thursday Strolls and also to host some short walking tours during the Farmer's Markets over the summer. We also planned to host History Center Open Houses each month, allowing for the public to come in and browse as well as allowing the Commissioners a work time to get the History Center cleaned and organized. We noted that the display case in the foyer was damaged from water and decided we needed to fix it prior to placing any items in it. Kel was continuing to work on identifying the scanned photos. In February, we hosted an Open House, allowing the Commissioners who were able to attend some time to really work on organization. Lynne attended the CCHPN Leadership Luncheon (an event for HC chairs in the county). We started planning for our Preservation Awards. We had our walking tour brochures reprinted. David Thal of The Wood Shop repaired the display case at no cost to the Borough. In early March, Lynne, Barb, Kel, Cathy, and Ian attended the CCHPN Spring Workshop held at the Brandywine River Museum. And, as we all know, in mid-March, the world shut down. The HC didn't meet

during March, April, and May, hoping that maybe we would be able to meet in person. By June, we realized that we needed to meet if we planned to present our Preservation Awards in September. We continued to be hopeful that we might offer some outdoor tours, but it continued to be a very quiet summer where we mainly worked on choosing awardees. By September, we regrouped and set our meetings for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Undaunted, our public events became a Facebook Live video tour of King Street, which was very well received. We hope to do another of these this year. We also discovered a company who will be able to help us with an updated reproduction of a woven blanket that was a limited edition in the late 1980's. We determined that it would be better to wait for next year to produce the blankets with the hope that we might be able to sell them at public events in the future. Cathy agreed to be our representative to the Comprehensive Task Force. In October, we presented our Preservation Awards to three property owners (others were not able to attend) at a Borough Council meeting. While we wished these presentations could have been in person, the Zoom meeting format provided us an opportunity to create a PowerPoint presentation of pictures of the properties that received awards which we feel would be something we would love to continue to do. Those who attended and received their awards were thrilled to have received them. In November and December, much of our meetings were focused on what we hope to be able to do in the future.

Our Facebook and Instagram accounts continue to be well-received. I must give kudos to Cathy Raymond who writes our Monday Malvernite and Throwback Thursday posts every week. They are creative, informative, and continue to engage the public, allowing us to hear stories that we might never know otherwise. As of earlier tonight, our Facebook "likes" are 1321 and "follows" are 1428. On Instagram we have 327 followers. Our numbers continue to grow every month and allow the public to engage with us.