



## Articles of Organization

**Name:** Lower Swatara Township Historic Preservation Society

**Organization:** The Lower Swatara Township Historic Preservation Society is tax-exempt and a non-profit organization as recognized under state and Federal laws.

**Belief System:** Preservation must consider the entirety of Lower Swatara Township, including its open spaces, working agricultural lands and farmsteads, buildings and structures, cemeteries, environmental qualities, scenic attributes, natural resources, and the overall character and authenticity of our neighborhoods and landscapes.

Preservation is an ethic—a belief that history plays an important role in our lives today and offers unique possibilities for the future.

Historic preservation brings an economic benefit by offering experiences and investment opportunities that are not available elsewhere. As our assets age, decisions must be made about which historic resources to save, which to rehabilitate and reuse, which to memorialize, and which to clear for other uses. New growth and economic opportunities also need consideration, along with the many benefits associated with conserving open space, natural and scenic assets, and agricultural land.

**Mission Statement:** To identify, educate, promote interest in, and advocate for the preservation of historic buildings, cemeteries, and landscapes in Lower Swatara Township.

**Composition:** The Lower Swatara Township Historic Preservation Society was created on October 18, 2017, as recognized by the Lower Swatara Township Board of Commissioners at its legislative meeting. The Lower Swatara Township Historic Preservation Society shall consist of volunteers and private membership for the purposes of the mission statement above. The Lower Swatara Township Historic Preservation Society's Board of Trustees will be the governing body and will consist of five (5) trustees, who have equal voting and power. Individual duties will be assigned as required. After the first five years have been used for organization and initial implementation, on January of each year thereafter, the trustees will begin terms as provided: Two trustees will serve for four (4) years, two trustees will serve for three (3) years, and one trustee will serve for two (2) years. Trustees will be appointed by majority vote at the annual meeting in January.

## **Powers and Duties:**

- The **Lower Swatara Township Historic Preservation Society** shall seek out historic information and maintain an electronic catalogue file of properties and landscapes of historic nature in Lower Swatara Township.
- The **Lower Swatara Township Historic Preservation Society** shall promote historic properties through educational programs and presentations, awards, and other historic or community-related activities.
- The **Lower Swatara Township Historic Preservation Society** shall encourage property owners of historic properties to maintain, restore, and repair their properties.
- The **Lower Swatara Township Historic Preservation Society** shall advise the Lower Swatara Township Board of Commissioners about any historical properties that should be protected from development or decay.
- The **Lower Swatara Township Historic Preservation Society** shall provide approval for historical Society plaques, upon application and fees paid, by the present property owner, to recognize historic properties.
- The **Lower Swatara Township Historic Preservation Society** shall have the power to revise any articles of organization, by-laws, rules or policies, in writing, by a majority vote of the membership at any of their regular or annual meetings.
- The **Lower Swatara Township Historic Preservation Society** will keep official minutes of meetings and comply with all state and Federal regulations.
- The **Lower Swatara Township Historic Preservation Society** will not intervene on behalf of Lower Swatara Township, township residents, township businesses, or any municipal organization regarding historic legal decisions or litigation.

**Meetings:** The **Lower Swatara Township Historic Preservation Society** shall meet at a specific time and place at least three times annually (this includes the one mandatory annual meeting for voting purposes that will begin in January 2023). In addition, the trustees may hold any other meetings or workshops as required to perform the duties included within their mission statement. The *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern the transaction of all business and official minutes. Three (3) members shall constitute a quorum. Dates and times of meetings with agendas will be posted electronically. Any trustee who misses a scheduled meeting twice (within a single calendar year), without just cause, shall be voted out by majority vote.

**Supporting Membership:** Any individual, senior citizen, family, non-profit community organization, or corporation may become a supporting member by paying an annual or lifetime membership fee.

**Indemnification and Hold Harmless:** Board Trustees are hereby indemnified and held harmless for any potential personal liability for actions taken in their capacity while acting as a Board Trustee for the **Lower Swatara Township Historic Preservation Society**.

**Dissolution:** The **Lower Swatara Township Historic Preservation Society** may be dissolved as a tax-exempt, non-profit organization with a majority vote. Any assets will be then donated to the Lower Swatara Township Board of Commissioners or their designate. The Board of Trustees will move to close and terminate the nonprofit.

These Articles of Organization were approved and adopted by the Board of Trustees:

William Leonard, President 3/25/2018  
William Leonard, President

Ruth Shireman, Vice President 3/25/2018  
Ruth Shireman, Vice President

Nancy Avolese, Treasurer 3/25/2018  
Nancy Avolese, Treasurer

Joanne L. Harter, Secretary 3/25/2018  
Joanne Harter, Secretary

Carol Siegfried 3/25/2018  
Carol Siegfried, Board Trustee