

September 24, 2020

## **Statement by Longswamp Township Historical Society about the Funding of the Restoration and Relocation of the Mertztown Train Station**

*This statement responds to circulating rumors that the relocation of the Mertztown train station to the Longswamp Township Community Park and/or restoration and/or repair and/or repurpose of said structure will be funded in part or in whole using the taxpayer dollars of Longswamp Township citizens.*

In 2015, LTHS created a five-year strategic plan to establish and document a direction for the organization. Among the long-term goals set was the acquisition of the Mertztown train station, should it ever become available. In April 2019, Atlas Minerals & Chemicals, Inc. gifted the station to LTHS. Later that year, LTHS approached the BOS to inquire of its interest for the park to become the new home of the structure (a condition of ownership transfer required that the station be removed from Atlas' property).

The BOS approved relocation of the structure to the park. After a review by John Yoder, Longswamp Township Zoning Officer, it also approved use by visitors to the structure of the existing restrooms located in Pavilion 2. The township has offered its assistance with preliminary grading of the land on which the repurposed structure will reside, including removal of trees by public works employees. But no offer of monetary assistance has ever been rendered to LTHS by the BOS.

All costs associated with the project will be borne by LTHS, including the move and restoration of the structure, hook-up of electrical service, creation of a walkway from the structure to the parking lot, and or any hardscaping LTHS may wish to install to block unsightly views and/or create a more welcoming space. A separate meter will be installed to capture electrical usage data for the repurposed train station; the associated cost of kilowatt use will be borne entirely by LTHS.

### **About the Longswamp Township Historical Society**

Longswamp Township Historical Society (LTHS) was formed, and became a committee of Longswamp Township, as authorized by the Board of Supervisors of Longswamp Township (BOS) on October 27, 2009, via Resolution 2009-22. Later, it was also designated by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and 501(9)(a) public charity.