

Contemplating an Improvement to Your Historic Home?

Do you live in an older or historic home? If so, it may be listed on the Township's Historic Resource Inventory and subject to additional zoning regulations. The Historic Resource Inventory contains Class 1, Class 1 Determination of Eligibility (DOE), and Class 2 properties. Township review and approval is required before demolishing a Class 1, Class 1 DOE, or Class 2 resource, and/or before making changes to the exterior of Class 1 properties. This review must occur, regardless of whether a permit is otherwise required by the Township.

Exterior changes include construction of an addition, adding new window or door openings, closing an existing opening, demolition of a portion of the dwelling, construction of a porch or enclosure of an existing porch. Additional changes include replacing a roof with a different type of material, such as removing a slate roof and replacing it with asphalt shingles or replacing original wood windows with vinyl windows. Township review is required because these changes alter the defining characteristics of the building. This review does not apply to ordinary maintenance or in-kind repairs to correct any deterioration, decay, or damage, provided the building is restored to its original condition prior to the occurrence of the damage. You can find out whether your property is included in our Inventory by viewing the Historic Resource Map at www.eastbradford.org/DocumentCenter/Index/29.

The Township also recently adopted Design Guidelines, a historic preservation tool, to help property owners make informed decisions when proposing alterations, restoration, or additions to historic buildings. The Design Guidelines are used by both the Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) and the Historical Commission, when they review exterior changes to historic buildings and new construction in historic districts to ensure that the changes are consistent with the guidelines. The Design Guidelines are available on the Township website and at the Township Building. Please contact the Township's Director of Planning and Zoning, Andrea Campisi, at (610) 436-5108 x 110 or acampisi@eastbradford.org with any questions. ●

Be Happier, Volunteer!

National Institute of Health has found that volunteering is predictive of better mental and physical health. Yet, according to the PA Youth Survey, less than one-quarter of teens in the West Chester area report they have volunteered in the last 12 months. Visit www.wccctc.org/volunteering-boosts-your-mood to learn more about the value of volunteering.



**INSPIRE THEM TO
Share Their
Time.**

**Volunteering Can
BOOST THEIR MOOD!
Discover How:**



**#wcyouthmatter
WCCCTC.ORG**
Dedicated to Improving Outcomes for Our Youth

One Little Thing...

Due to its rolling terrain, East Bradford is wealthy in streams of all kinds, including perennial, seasonal, and ephemeral. Many individual property owners in the Township have a stream or other waterway located on their property, whether it be an acre in the suburban areas in the Township or a historic multi-acre farm in the rural outskirts. Regardless, all these waterways are important to the ecosystem in the Township and keeping them as clean as possible benefits not only the residents of the Township, but also our downstream neighbors.

One thing that often can be seen, particularly on smaller properties, is the clearing of vegetation to the tops of the stream embankments, including lawn mowing. While this practice may enable maximum use of the limited acreage and a cleaner looking aesthetic, it is harmful to the stream. Trees and woodland understory keep the streamflow at cooler temperatures, which is better for its inhabitants. Grasses and shrubbery adjacent to the stream create filters for stormwater runoff containing pollutants from upslope areas caused by lawn fertilizers, pesticides, detergents, etc. Most importantly, the root systems of this type of vegetation help hold the streambank in place to slow the progression of stream erosion, to keep your property where it is supposed to be.

One little thing you can do to help keep the streams in the Township cleaner is to allow the area along the stream embankment to naturalize and return to a wooded state (or plant native species to restore this area). An area only five to 10 feet in width can help accomplish this if your space is extremely limited, and obviously the wider the better if you have space to spare. An added bonus of this practice is less lawn mowing to be done (who doesn't like that?). If appearance is a concern, some relatively simple planting plans can be developed by most landscapers to create a very aesthetically pleasing outcome.