

Welcome to the
Tinicum Civic Association



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What's Our Mission?

The Tinicum Civic Association is a volunteer non-profit organization that encourages artistic talent, supports community well-being, and preserves the historic Stover Mill in Erwinna, PA.

A Bit of History...and What We Do!

The Tinicum Civic Association (TCA) was founded in 1946 for the purposes of “promoting the general welfare of the residents of Tinicum Township and preserving a healthy environment.” The TCA received the Stover Mill in 1957 as a gift from township resident John J. Stover. It was incorporated in 1957 and received federal tax-exempt 501(c)(4) nonprofit status in 1958. All Tinicum Township residents and property owners who are of legal age are members of the Tinicum Civic Association. There are no membership dues. All activities of the organization are run by volunteers.

When John J. Stover deeded the Stover Mill to the Tinicum Civic Association, he also donated his 126-acre farm to Bucks County. That farm, now Tinicum Park, was the first property in the Bucks County park system. Tinicum Park is the site of the Tinicum Arts Festival, the TCA's primary fundraiser.

The primary activities of the Tinicum Civic Association are:

- Overseeing the **use and maintenance of the Stover Mill**.
- Operating the **Stover Mill Gallery**.
- **Fundraising** by means of the Stover Mill Gallery and the Tinicum Arts Festival, with well over 150 volunteers from the community involved with the gallery and in the planning and execution of the Arts Festival each year.
- Making **annual monetary donations** to nonprofit emergency service, educational and cultural organizations that serve Tinicum Township and neighboring communities.



About the Stover Mill

- The Stover Mill was built in 1832. It was operated as a gristmill, grinding wheat and corn for the residents of Erwinna, PA, until 1932. In the early 1900s, power from the mill's turbines was also used to generate electricity for the village of Erwinna.
- From 1932 until 1955 the Stover Mill was used as a storehouse for the sale of grain, flour and feed.
- In 1957, the owner, John J. Stover, donated the mill to the Tinicum Civic Association. At the same time Mr. Stover gave 126 acres and buildings that make up Tinicum Park to Bucks County.
- In 1959, the Stover Mill Gallery was established, and in the 1960s the Tinicum Civic Association began to renovate the Mill for use as its association headquarters, a community meeting hall, a library and the art gallery.
- In 1979, the Stover Mill was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- In 1981, the Tinicum Township supervisors allocated a \$60,000 federal grant for restorations to the Mill. In this restoration, two of the three lower-level support beams were reinforced.
- Over the winter of 2001/2002, the structure of the Stover Mill was temporarily stabilized on an emergency basis until a permanent restoration could be undertaken.
- Over the winter of 2002/2003, the first phase of a permanent restoration was done. The first phase removed the sag and reinforced the upper three floors. This phase cost \$45,000, all of which was raised by the TCA.
- In 2012, the Stover Mill Restoration Project was completed. The restoration reduced the deflection of the structural support beams at the first, second and attic levels; reinforced the structure at the lower level over the water in the turbine bay, which had suffered deterioration due of its exposure to the elements; repaired the existing stonework and existing structure at the lower level, and restored the top three floors in keeping with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Recommendations for historic buildings.



Cultural and Historic Value of the Stover Mill

- The Stover Mill is a structure of special cultural and historical significance because the fabric of the building remains mostly intact. Most of the original mill machinery remains in place, including four sets of the original millstones and two very rare metal power-generating turbines.
- It was first listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 18, 1979. PA National Register Key Number 001706.
- A small museum on the second floor of the mill has 19th- and early 20th-century tools and artifacts related to milling, farming, the canal and other trades.
- Each year the Tinicum Civic Association hosts an open house at the Stover Mill the weekend before Labor Day. All floors of the mill are opened to the public, and members of the association are present on each floor to describe the former operation of the mill machinery and the items in the second-floor museum. Admission to the open house is free.

The Stover Mill Gallery

The Tinicum Civic Association operates the Stover Mill as an art gallery on weekends from April through October. Shows change monthly and feature the works of regional artists. The gallery offers artists an opportunity to sell their work in an attractive setting and is an interesting stop for tourists traveling along River Road. Funds raised through a percentage of the gallery sales are dedicated to mill maintenance. The Stover Mill Gallery is managed and hosted entirely by volunteers and is a destination for visitors to the River Towns community. Learn more at stovermillgallery.org.

The Tinicum Arts Festival

The Tinicum Arts Festival is the primary fundraiser for the TCA. The festival is planned and run by volunteers. Proceeds are used to maintain the 1832 Stover Mill and to benefit over 30 nonprofit organizations that serve Tinicum Township and neighboring communities.

The Arts Festival is held the second weekend in July at Tinicum Park on River Road (Route 32), Erwinna, PA. With thousands of attendees, the festival features the works of regional artists in the historic Art Barn, dozens of artisans and crafters, a White Elephant tent for collectors, thousands of books for sale at the Book Wagon, an opportunity to meet local authors, a Silent Auction, TCA and festival historical information, and local nonprofits. Music is presented on the main stage, and entertainers stroll the grounds. Food and beverages are available at the picnic grove, and children are welcome to enjoy special activities designed for them. Learn more at tinicumartsfestival.org.



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A Community of Friends!

The membership of the Tinicum Civic Association includes all residents and taxpayers of Tinicum Township, PA, who are of voting age and residents of adjoining communities who are recognized as active in fulfilling the purposes of the TCA. There are no membership dues.

Meetings of the Board are held monthly on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Stover Mill or via Zoom in the winter months. All are welcome to attend and participate. At these gatherings, the Board primarily reviews and discusses the business and status of the organization, the planning of the Tinicum Arts Festival, the management of the Stover Mill Gallery, and our fundraising efforts.

Ways to Participate!

Join us at our meetings. The foundation of the great work of the Tinicum Civic Association and the community in delivering on its mission is crafted at these meetings. Your insights and help would be so appreciated!

Volunteer as a host at the Stover Mill Gallery. Meet the artists, greet visitors and make the sales that help the TCA maintain the historic Stover Mill and support the community. The Gallery is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1pm to 5pm (April through October).

Volunteer for the Tinicum Arts Festival. Join the fun with dozens of community members in making the TCA's premier fundraising event a continued success. Help is always needed in the Art Barn, Book Wagon, White Elephant, Silent Auction, Authors' Table and so much more. As the adage says...*many hands make light work.*



Tinicum Civic Association

Bylaws of the Tinicum Civic Association, a Pennsylvania Nonprofit Corporation

Article I - Name and Address

The name of the Corporation is the TINICUM CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC., and the same has been registered with the Secretary of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The location and mailing address are Stover Mill, 852 River Road, PO Box 106, Erwinna, Bucks County, PA 18920.

Article II - Purposes

The purposes of the Corporation are to promote the general welfare of the residents of Tinicum Township by: raising funds through such events as seem necessary; donating a portion of those funds to worthy community-based nonprofit organizations; and maintaining and preserving the historic Stover Mill, located at 852 River Road, Erwinna, PA. The Corporation holds real and personal property incidental and necessary to the foregoing purposes; and engages in such other activities, in line with the foregoing purposes, as the membership shall determine.

Article III - Membership

The membership of this Association shall include all residents and taxpayers of Tinicum Township who are of voting age and residents of adjoining communities who are recognized as active in fulfilling the purposes of the TCA. There shall be no membership dues.

Article IV - Officers and Executive Committee

The officers of the Association, chosen from the membership of the Association, shall be: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and at least nine (9) and not more than twelve (12) Trustees. These officers shall constitute the Executive Committee. The officers shall be elected for a term of one year, except Trustees, who shall be elected for a term of three years, three to be elected each year.

The President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer may serve 5 consecutive years in their same position before running for election after 24 months.

The President shall preside at all meetings, plan programs and arrange for the general well-being of the Association. When a vacancy occurs in any of the offices listed above, the President shall appoint a member to fill the office for the remainder of the calendar year.

The Vice President shall preside at meetings and shall act for and in place of the President in the latter's absence or incapacity.



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The Recording Secretary shall keep the minutes and attendance record of the meetings and be responsible for the records of the Association.

The Corresponding Secretary shall handle all correspondence and keep it in the files of the Association and fill in for the Recording Secretary in the latter's absence or incapacity.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for all funds of the Association, shall pay the bills of the Association, shall keep a record of all receipts and disbursements of the Association, shall give a financial report at each meeting, and shall present an annual report at the close of each year. Monies shall be deposited in secure separate accounts to the credit of the Association, in financial institutions selected by the Treasurer with the approval of the Association. The Treasurer may be assisted by a bookkeeper, who will record deposits and expenditures for the Treasurer.

The books of the Association shall be open at all reasonable times to the Executive Committee. The Treasurer's accounts shall be audited annually by a committee of three, appointed by the President in January, which will report to the Association no later than the March meeting.

Officers of the Association may not serve in any capacity that creates a conflict of interest or an apparent conflict of interest.

Article V - Trustees

The Trustees shall be responsible for the real and personal property and shall keep the same in good repair. The Trustees shall be responsible for coordinating the use of the property for the best interest of the Association and the community. In accepting the office of Trustee, the member agrees to attend a minimum of three meetings a year. If this requirement is not met, the position for the balance of the term shall be filled by nomination and voted at the annual election in November.

Trustees shall not be remunerated for services, consultations, or contracted positions provided by the TCA.

Former Trustees may be elected to the position of Emeritus Trustee by the Executive Committee. This honorary position carries no responsibilities and is not part of the Executive Committee.

Article VI - Election and Removal of Officers and Trustees

Nominations for officers for the coming year shall be made at the November meeting and the election held at the same meeting. To be eligible to vote, members must have attended at least three (3) meetings during the current year. Each elected officer must be approved by a majority of those present and voting. The new officers shall take office at the beginning of the next calendar year.



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If a current officer expresses an interest in continuing in the position, the Executive Committee may approve an extension of the term of office.

Any officer may be removed without cause by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee whenever in their judgment the best interest of the Association will be served.

Article VII - Meetings

Meetings shall be held the fourth Thursday of every month, unless otherwise voted by the Association, except that (1) the November meeting shall be held the Thursday after Thanksgiving (which may occur in December) and (2) there will be no meeting the fourth Thursday of December. Seven members shall constitute a quorum. A quorum shall be necessary to make and approve motions at a meeting. In the absence of a quorum, the meeting can continue for purposes of information exchange.

Article VIII - Committees

All committees shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee. The President shall be an ex-officio (voting) member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee, which shall not include the President, shall be appointed at the September meeting to report back to the Association at the November meeting.

Article IX - Disbursement of Funds

The Association's funds may be disbursed by a majority vote of those present at a regular meeting when a quorum is present. To be eligible to vote, members must have attended at least three (3) meetings during the preceding twelve months. The President or the Trustees, in consultation with the Executive Committee, may expend any amount necessary to protect the Stover Mill or the Association in the event of an emergency. Donations to local organizations shall be proposed at the October meeting and written requests from nonprofit or service organizations are encouraged for consideration. Final action on donations shall be made at the November meeting. Requests for one-time donations may be considered at any time during the year.

A Finance Committee appointed by the President will oversee investments and recommend changes and/or reinvestments for the review and approval of the Executive Committee. Changes, transfers and reinvestments will be made only by the Treasurer or a person authorized by the Executive Committee ("Investment Manager") to do so. The additional Investment Manager will be designated by the Executive Committee each year.

Article X - Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, revised, shall govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable and not inconsistent with these Bylaws.



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Article XI - Amendments

All amendments to these Bylaws shall be presented in writing and read at two consecutive meetings and shall be voted upon at the third of three consecutive meetings and approved by a two-thirds majority of members present and eligible to vote.

Article XII - Dissolution of the Association

The Executive Committee may dissolve the Association, after payment of all just debts and obligations, by a two-thirds vote at a regular or special meeting with notice of the purpose. Upon dissolution, all assets and property of the Association shall be transferred, paid over or delivered by said Executive Committee to one or more IRS Tax Code 501(c) qualifying, nonprofit organizations, to be used as nearly as practicable in accordance with the purposes of the Association stated above in Article II.

Article XIII - Indemnification

Officers, Trustees or agents representing the Association, under Pennsylvania law, shall not be personally liable for monetary damages as provided in Pennsylvania Act 1986-145 from the earliest date that such Act applies. Officers shall be indemnified to the greatest extent possible under applicable Pennsylvania law, including Act 1986-145, and shall have benefit of Act 1986-145 from the earliest date such act applies.