



July 15, 2027

Dear Pelham Neighbors,

I'm reaching out today to share information about the vote that was conducted relating to a potential Pelham Historic District nomination.

As you know, WMAN offered the opportunity for Pelham property owners to voice their support/opposition regarding the question: *Should West Mt Airy Neighbors support the nomination of the Pelham neighborhood to become a locally and nationally designated historic district?*

A physical self-addressed stamped ballot was distributed in May 2026 to approximately 320 property owners within the proposed historic district boundaries. Property owners were also able to vote via a QR code or direct email. Of the 130 ballots cast, the majority voted to oppose WMAN's continued involvement in or support of a Pelham Historic District nomination. The final vote tally was 91 opposed, 36 in favor, and 3 abstentions.

This was a turning point in a lengthy process. As a result of this vote, at the WMAN Board meeting on Wednesday June 24 th , with a quorum of our governance Board present, a majority of the WMAN Board voted to terminate our grant from the State of Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. We have informed the PHMC of this decision and have also terminated our contract with Farragut Consultants.

There is much to learn about how historic preservation might be a useful tool in parts of West Mt Airy to preserve architectural character and a sense of place. There is also much to learn about how the process unfolded in discussing and finally voting on the question of a Pelham Historic District nomination. I know that I'm not alone among those on our Board and including our Executive Director, Josephine Winter, in thinking about how the process could have been improved, independent of personal positions on historic preservation.

Thank you for participating in this process, and for your patience and care as we navigated this challenging situation as a community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve Kendall'.

Steve Kendall / WMAN Board President

President:
Steve Kendall

Board Members:
Lis Bass
Adrienne Carpenter
Jarma Frisby
Paul Gill
Terence Jones
Chloe Mohr
Cheryl Anne Nelson
Ebo Nunoo
Carla Pagan
Rob Pelzynski
Ralph Pinkus
Octavius Price
Peter Samuel
Greg Smith

Executive Director:
Josephine Winter