

Historical Commission of Birmingham Township
Minutes of the meeting of January 24, 2017

The regular meeting of the Birmingham Township Historical Committee was called to order by Chairman Matt Bedwell at 7:21 pm in the township building.

PRESENT: HC Members: Matt Bedwell, Mike Forbes, Carla Westerman, Nancy Needham, Kate Marshall

ABSENT:

Others present: Karen Marshall

Mr. Bedwell made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 24, 2016 meeting. Ms. Westerman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public

Karen Marshall from Chester County was in attendance this evening to present a proposal to the HC and provided some important dates for events occurring in 2017.

She encouraged Birmingham township to renew their annual membership. It provides many benefits, one of which is a discount for the Spring Workshop which is scheduled for March 11, 2017 at the Conservancy. This workshop will be a training program for new HC members on Historic Preservation (like a basis 101 course). Mr. Bedwell encouraged members to attend as he has in the past and found it very informative.

The annual dinner for volunteer recognition will be June 28, 2017 at Historic Yellow Springs.

The Ledger has a new editor this year and they are hopeful the new look and editor will revitalize the publication. Ms. Marshall asked for a list of all of the HC members addresses to ensure they receive the new publication.

Ms. Marshall presented the proposed Summer 2017 Town Tours and Village Walks. This year is the first time they are following a theme. In honor of the 240th anniversary of the Battle of the Brandywine the theme is the Campaign of 1777. Discussion ensued about the township sponsoring this event in conjunction with East Bradford township. East Bradford has been a part of these town tours numerous times in the past. Ms. Marshall provided the HC with a document outlining the timeline for each step leading up to this event and also guidelines for how to host this. She noted that depending on the weather on the date of the tour, you can expect up to 300 attendees, thus parking for approximately 100 cars would be imperative. The date that is proposed for the Birmingham tour is Thursday, July 6, 2017. Ms. Westerman noted that in the past when she attended these tours, they were in villages which were conducive to people wandering around in the village afterwards. Someone recommended that perhaps a map with a driving tour could be handed out to attendees as they are leaving, in case they want to take in a couple more historic vistas that evening.

Mr. Bedwell made a motion to support the 2017 Summer Town Tours and Village Walk on Thursday, July 6, 2017. Ms. Needham seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers

Discussion ensued about the time requirements for the Chairperson role for the HC and Mr. Bedwell noted that he does not want to continue in the role of Chairperson due to his many time-consuming outside obligations . He indicated he may need to transition off the committee.

Ms. Needham made a motion to name Carla Westerman as Chairperson, Mike Forbes as Vice Chairperson and also to make a recommendation to the BOS to add an additional member to the Commission. This additional person will be able to transition into the group as Matt Bedwell begins to step away due to personal commitments. Mr. Bedwell seconded. Motion passed without dissent.

Ms. Westerman made a motion to appoint Jennifer Boorse as Secretary. Seconded by Ms. Needham and motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bedwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:29pm. Seconded by Mr. Forbes and voted unanimously. The next meeting will be February 28, 2017 at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Boorse
HC Secretary