

Historical Commission of Birmingham Township
Minutes of the meeting of May 23, 2017

The regular meeting of the Birmingham Township Historical Committee was called to order by Chairperson Carla Westerman at 7:17 pm in the township building.

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

ABSENT: Matt Bedwell

Others present: Mary DeNadai

Ms. Needham made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 25, 2017 meeting. Mr. Forbes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Update on HR criteria

Mr. Forbes expresses his reasoning for using a set date for the Historic Resources in the township versus stating a flat 50 years old. He wants to protect the truly historic structures/things that are in the township not have this be an overview of architectural designs. Discussion ensues about how to protect the historical corridor, the battlefield landscape, and other view sheds. Ms. DeNadai interjects that some of this will have to be handled through the various layers of ordinances in the township. In the future if a demolition permit is to be issued, the person who approves them will have to check with the HC to verify if it is on the historic resources list. Additionally, any rebuilds after a tear down, will have to fall under the "massing section" in the zoning ordinance. Protecting the view sheds will have to be handled in the zoning and view shed ordinances. It is important that all of these layers be in place to balance personal property rights also. Ms. DeNadai notes that the criteria being proposed is defensible in court and has been proven to be so since the 1963.

The new proposed draft of criteria after much modification is:

- A. 50 years old or older; and meets at least one of the following criteria:
- B. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our national, state or local history; or
- C. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- D. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity or landscape whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- E. That have yielded, or may likely yield, information important in prehistory or history; or
- F. Is on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mr. Forbes made a motion to recommend approval of this draft of criteria to the BOS, pending verification by Mary DeNadai on the wording in criteria D. Final verification of this item will occur from the committee via email. Seconded by Ms. Needham. Motion passed.

There is discussion about which members can go through the current listing of HRs in the township and update the spreadsheet with the newest criteria. Ms. Marshall has offered to undertake this project as she is currently still entering photos of a few of the HRs.

Update of on the town tour

Other than needing some more volunteers and a couple more docents; everything seems to be falling into place. Ms. Westerman is attempting to get Thornbury Township (as the co-host) to handle some aspects of the tour, notably the refreshments.

Ms. Westerman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26m. Seconded by Mr. Forbes and voted unanimously. The next meeting will be June 27, 2017 at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Boorse
HC Secretary

Addendum to the Minutes:

The criteria approved at the meeting pending verification by Mary DeNadai were amended and approved May 26, 2017 by the Historic Committee members by email. The final version of the proposed criteria is shown below:

**PROPOSED CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION AS A BIRMINGHAM TOWNSHIP
HISTORIC RESOURCE**

- A. 50 years old or older; and meets at least one of the following criteria:
- B. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our national, state or local history; or
- C. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- D. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity including historic vernacular landscapes, whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- E. That have yielded, or may likely yield, information important in prehistory or history; or
- F. Is on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.