

HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF BIRMINGHAM TOWNSHIP
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 26, 2018

The regular meeting of the Birmingham Township Historical Committee was called to order by chairperson, Mike Forbes at 7:18 pm in the township building.

PRESENT: HC Members: Mike Forbes, Kelly Fleming, John Ponticello, And Matt Bedwell

Others present: Dan Hill, Member Board of Supervisors
Verne Weidman

Mr. Forbes made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 27, 2018 meeting. Motion was seconded by Matt Bedwell and passed unanimously.

Discussion of support for township historic sites linked to the Battle of Brandywine

Mr. Forbes stated the Brandywine Conservancy is pursuing to coordinate with the Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark Chester County Connectivity Plan a multi-municipal project. This would be coordinated between five townships to move forward to get a grant from the Vision Partnership Grant Program by Chester County. Of the total grant, 70% of the funds would come from the county Vision Partnership Grant and, 30% from the townships. The Conservancy is hoping, and Mr. Forbes agrees, that given the role Birmingham has played in the battle and the fact that most of the major sites are in Birmingham Township it would be in our best interest for Birmingham to pursue being the lead in the project.

Sheila Fleming from the Brandywine Conservancy presented this idea to the Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Committee at their meeting in May to get their support as well to the Board of Supervisors. RPOS has forwarded a recommendation on to the Board that they are in favor of pursuing this grant and Birmingham Township should be the lead working with the Conservancy.

The intent being, since the Conservancy has picked up the rest of the O'Dell property, is for them to use at least a part of the property as a site for some interpretative information regarding the Battlefield. There is support from non-government entities such as Civil War Trust and Natural Land trust that are backing land preservation. The object is to coordinate the effort with the Conservancy and the townships. The townships involved are Birmingham, Westtown, East Bradford, Pennsbury and Thornbury.

The Board of Supervisors would ultimately have to decide who would actually be in charge of the project for the township.

The total amount of the grant would be \$50,000. The amount for each township would be relative to the amount of land involved in the township. Mr. Hill indicated the grant application was due to the Chester County Planning Commission August 15, 2018. The anticipated start date would be January-February 2019.

Mr. Forbes made a motion that the Historical Commission recommend to the Board of Supervisors that Birmingham Township become the lead township for the Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark Chester County Connectivity Plan in conjunction with the Brandywine Conservancy's pursuit of the Vision Partnership Grant Program and allocate \$5,000 in support of this effort. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ponticello and approved unanimously. Mr. Forbes will send an email requesting to be on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors meeting on July 9, 2018. He believes that Sheila Fleming plans to attend the Supervisors meeting to present the plan.

New business

Mrs. Fleming asked what the plan was for filling the vacancy on the commission due to Kate Marshall leaving. Mr. Forbes spoke to a candidate on the phone who was interested but he was not available to come to the meeting tonight and he has not been interviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

Plan for next meeting

There will be an applicant for the next meeting who will need to attend both the Historical Commission and Historical Architectural Review Board meeting. The property is 1001 Country Club Rd. –the intention is to renovate an in-ground swimming pool that had previously been filled in. They will go to the HARB meeting on July 17 and the HC meeting on July 24. Due to time constraints it was not possible to have a joint meeting.

Mr. Forbes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM. Seconded by Mrs. Fleming and approved unanimously. The next meeting will be July 24, 2018 at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Ayers".

Gail Ayers
Acting HC Secretary