

Historical Commission of Birmingham Township
Minutes of the meeting of February 23, 2016

The regular meeting of the Birmingham Township Historical Committee was called to order by Chairman Matt Bedwell at 7:16 pm in the township building.

PRESENT: HC Members: Matt Bedwell, Mike Forbes, Nancy Needham

ABSENT: Carla Westerman, Kate Marshall

Others present:

Mr. Bedwell moved that the minutes of the January 26, 2016 be approved. Motion to approve the Minutes was seconded by Mr. Forbes. Motion passed unanimously.

Historical Commission Year End Review for 2015

Mr. Bedwell is finalizing a year end summary for the BOS of items that the HC worked on during the 2015 year.

- Closer adherence to the reporting requirements of current ordinances
- Steele property
- Seal house

New Sub-Committee Update

Update from Mike on the temporary sub-committee that John Conklin established that is tasked with reviewing key ordinances within the township that address Historic Resources. The members that Mike named are: Mary DeNadai (architect with John Milner), Tony Webb, Eric Hawkins, Mary Pat McCarthy, Karen Marshall, Jeanine Spears, Susan Walter, Mike Baskin. This list is probably not complete.

Four main components:

1. A more simplified and concise application process to help application understand and be able to meet the requirements; Mike showed a pamphlet that the township already has that may be utilized as a starting point for this process.
2. Look through the various ordinances and find the contradictory aspects and harmonize them
3. Within HARB setting much more strict/clear guidelines related to building mass, total square footage for a property, total square footage for component/element of property, height of structure limitations and total height restriction of structure relative to landscape, etc., using some of the easements/aspects used for the Wylie property and make them universal for all Historic properties. Take these same concepts as well as the more specific restrictions for HARB and use these same strict guidelines for any HR within the township or any property that may impact adjacent HR specifically outside of the HARB district.
4. Updating HARB guidelines/ordinances with some of the aspects within the Wylie property easement that can be applied within the entire HARB district

Mr. Forbes is going to review the information that he has received from Pennsbury and East Brandywine townships and distribute this information via the google docs website/electronic library to the HC committee members for their input. The subcommittee is comprised of HARB and HC

members and thus attempting to bring them closer together in their ultimate goals for the township.

Electronic Library Update

No new news at this time.

New Business

HC committee members would like to attend a Randall Spackman open house in the future since they were unable to attend the previous one. Ms. Needham is going to reach out to Mr. Spackman to see if this is possible in the near future.

HC would like updated landscape plans for both the Diver property and the Seal property.

Mr. Bedwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05m. Seconded by Ms. Needham and voted unanimously. The next meeting will be March 22, 2015 at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Boorse
HC Secretary