

**Historical Commission of Birmingham Township
Minutes of the meeting of November 26, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Birmingham Township Historical Committee was called to order by Chairperson, Mike Forbes at **7:16pm** in the township building.

PRESENT: HC Members: Matt Bedwell, Kelly Fleming, Mike Forbes

ABSENT: Jeff Janofsky, John Ponticello

Others present: Jack Wuerstle and William Miller

Mr. Forbes made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 22, 2019 meeting. Ms. Fleming seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Application for modification on property at 1060 W. Street Road (HR#74)

The applicant's attorney, Jack Wuerstle, is in attendance to present the application for the spring house located on the property of HR#74. Mr. Wuerstle provided a copy of letter and the proof of neighbor mailings. There are a couple neighbors in attendance this evening.

The HR is a class III historic resource in the township. Mr. Wuerstle has photographs of the current structure indicating that it is in a state of disrepair and beginning to collapse. The Millers (who purchased the property in 2016 and are in the construction industry) would like to rehabilitate it back to the original state. It was rehabbed at some point in the past 30-40 years, however that rehab was done with cinder block which is not the original materials used to build the spring house.

The applicant has already removed the rafters and stored them inside. They plan to remove the existing block, underpin the stone that is there and rebuild the walls with some serpentine stone and a cedar shake roof similar to the original one.

Mr. Forbes completed the required Form for this application.

Mr. Forbes made a motion to recommend that the BOS approve the Miller's application for the restoration of the Spring House located at 1060 W. Street Road (HR#74) per the documentation presented. Seconded by Ms. Fleming and approved unanimously.

Discussion of Historic Resource Catalogue for Office Use

Mr. Forbes has been thinking about a way to help the office be able to identify the Historic Resources within the township and all of the adjoining properties that would trigger notification requirements if they are planning to modify their properties. This seems to be an area that often falls through the cracks and the HC is simply trying to find a way to be proactive about the notifications. Discussion ensued about different ways to get a handle on this - should it be based on address or tax parcel number; should it be simply a list of tax parcel numbers added to the existing spreadsheet for each Historic Resource or should it be done on a map to be more visual? This is an idea to help the office out, but it would be a project to gather all the information and then it would need to be maintained and used.

As part of this discussion, the Nakasian's (Sam and Gundi) asked what triggers neighbor notifications - because they did not receive neighbor notifications for modifications being made to their neighbor's property. Their neighbors did come and speak with them directly, but they did not receive notification that the modifications were being discussed at township meetings.

The HC members looked at the Construction Permit Application that was part of the 1060 W. Street Road packet (simply as a reference) to see if there are any areas on the application where the HC is referenced thus triggering that an application should come to the HC -- seeing none, Mr. Forbes made a recommendation that the BOS consider revising/modifying the Construction Permit Application to include two items/questions: (1) is this property listed on the Historic Resource list; and (2) is this property within 500' of an Historic Resource. Lastly, consider adding an additional line on the page for Additional Permits/Approvals Required for the Historical Commission for when such applications need to be come to the HC. This motion was seconded by Ms. Fleming and approved unanimously.

Update on Vision Partnership Program

No official update this month, other than the fact that Jeff Janofsky (the HC member who was heading up this program) has resigned from the Committee and thus a replacement will need to be assigned.

New Business

Mr. Forbes asked if anyone would be opposed to formally cancelling the December meeting due to its close proximity to the holidays. Mr. Forbes made a motion to formally cancel the December meeting, it was seconded by Ms. Fleming and passed unanimously.

Mr. Forbes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23pm. Seconded by Ms. Fleming and voted unanimously. The next meeting will be January 28, 2020 at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Boorse
HC Secretary