

Historical Commission of Birmingham Township
Minutes of the meeting of August 24, 2021

The regular meeting of the Birmingham Township Historical Committee was called to order by the Chairperson, Mike Forbes at **7:22pm** in the township building.

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

ABSENT: Kelly Fleming, John Ponticello

Others present: Dan Hill

Mr. Forbes made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2021 meeting. Ms. Kelly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Review HR#63, 1120 Meetinghouse Road application

Mr. Hoplamazian is in attendance to present the proposed barn renovations for the barn located on the property of Historic Resource #63. The plans for the barn renovations were shared with the HC members via a PDF file in early August. The plans were drawn by Engle Architects and the work will be completed by King Construction Company. The applicant provided renditions of what the barn will look like after the project is completed.

Mr. Hoplamazian provided proof of the required neighbor notifications which were sent on July 28, 2021 to 18 neighbors. There is one neighbor in attendance this evening (Jennifer Aiken Fulton who resides at 225 Firethorne Drive, but also owns 1130 Meetinghouse Rd) and she stated that she is in full support of the renovation.

Mr. Forbes answered the questions to the required HC form during the meeting.

Mr. Forbes made a motion to recommend that the BOS approve the proposed renovations to the barn located at 1120 Meetinghouse Road, also known as HR#63. Seconded by Ms. Kelly and approved unanimously.

New Business

Mr. Forbes noted that per his email to the HC members last week, the owners of the Dilworthtown Inn properties are not available to meet until after Labor Day.

Dr. Jennifer Aiken Fulton is in attendance - she is the daughter of Robert and Brenda Aiken of Linden Farm located at 1225 Birmingham Road. She is here for two reasons tonight: (1) to support her neighbors' application for the barn renovation, and (2) to ascertain the township's interest in helping her achieve her mother's wishes – which is to preserve the Linden Farm house to be available as an historic site for people to learn about the Battle of the Brandywine. The battle started in the back yard of the Linden Farm property in the apple orchard. It was the home of the Samuel Jones at the time of the start of the battle. Dr. Fulton noted that her mother has some resources to help fund her wishes and they also have some interested parties to help this come to fruition. She wants to know if the township would have any interest in helping her move forward with this concept.

Mr. Forbes explains the multi-township study that Birmingham township is leading to help locate places for heritage centers and interpretative sites through the larger battlefield area. Dr. Fulton notes that she has attended many of those meetings and that they are in the process of placing an easement on Linden Farm and she'd like to know if Linden Farm might fit into the puzzle. Mr. Forbes stated that he thinks that this could be a piece of the puzzle. Linden Farm could be an interpretative site – but up until this point, the committee was only looking at public sites and not private property for this project. However, with this new information, that may change the direction of the project a bit. Mr. Forbes plans to include Dr. Fulton into the process going forward. She had a video made prior to her father's passing. The video is on Utube and is entitled "Linden Farm: A love story".

Mr. Hill asked who the contact people are at the Brandywine Conservancy for the two projects. Mr. Forbes stated that Sheila Fleming is heading up the plan for Birmingham Hill and Kathleen McCaig is heading up the multi-township project. Mr. Hill stated that Mr. Forbes should share this new information with both of those groups.

Mr. Forbes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48pm. Seconded by Ms. Kelly and voted unanimously. The next meeting will be September 28, 2021 at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Boorse
HC Secretary