

**Historical Commission of Birmingham Township
Minutes of the meeting of November 29, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Birmingham Township Historical Committee was called to order by the Chairperson, Mike Forbes at **7:04pm** in the township building.

PRESENT: HC Members: Kelly Fleming, Mike Forbes, John Ponticello, Pat Kelly

ABSENT: Matt Bedwell

Others present:

Ms. Fleming made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 25, 2022 meeting. Ms. Kelly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Review Application for 1105 Brintons Bridge Rd. (HR#48)

Mr. Wingrave is in attendance to present the planned improvements. He stated they are planning to add a garden shed, a two-stall horse barn with tack room and a wire fence. They presented the layout of their property and showed where all the items will be located. The barn is a prebuilt structure (28x12) that will match the color of the house and the shed. Ms. Fleming asked if the barn is going to be board and batten? Mr. Wingrave confirmed it is a SmartTec siding that looks like board and batten.

They provided proof of the required neighbor notifications that were sent out to properties within 500 feet of the Historic Resource. They sent out ten letters. There are no neighbors in attendance this evening.

Mr. Forbes completed the required Form during the meeting.

Mr. Forbes made a motion to recommend the BOS approve the application as presented for the addition of a barn, shed and fence at 1105 Brintons Bridge Road (HR#48). Seconded by Mr. Ponticello and passed unanimously.

Review Application for 1099 Wylie Road (HR#58)

Mr. Simpson is in attendance this evening to present the proposed project. The plan is to remove existing additions that were built on to the original house from circa 1820. The original house is iron stone, field stone, federal style house with some Greek revival interior detail – towards the back of that structure are later built structures that are stucco on frame and board and batten on frame. He showed photos of the existing structures affiliated with the house. They are proposing removing the later additions to the original house and also the cobbled motorcourt. They plan to scrap the plaster off the original fieldstone and restore it to its original material. They plan to showcase the original house throughout this project.

They will be linking the new additions (called pavilions throughout the discussion) to the original house. The links will be more modern looking in order to complement the core house. The pavilions will be complementary also in that they will have similar materials as the core house – they will have lower roof lines in order to defer to the original house. They will also be using a boral material which is “woodlike” in many ways, but much longer lasting. It looks like wood, paints like wood but does shrink and swell like real wood.

Mr. Forbes asked what the relative square footage of the new additions will be compared to the original house? Mr. Simpson estimates about 300% in total. The rooflines will all be reduced in comparison to the original structure.

The new driveway will still curve around the house. The Steele's are not planning to use the existing front door for everyday use as the entranceway is too narrow. They will be using a door around the side of the new family pavilion. From various areas within the new additions, you will be able to see the existing original house.

They provided proof of the required neighbor notifications that were sent out to properties within 500 feet of the Historic Resource. They sent out six letters. There are no neighbors in attendance this evening.

Mr. Forbes completed the required Form during the meeting.

Mr. Forbes made a motion to recommend the BOS approve the application as presented for the 1099 Wylie Road property (HR#58). Seconded by Ms. Kelly and passed unanimously.

New Business

Mr. Forbes made a motion to cancel the December meeting. Ms. Fleming seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Forbes is getting close to having all of the documentation in order to have the Board of Supervisors approve payment for the Vision Partnership Plan. He is simply awaiting the Chester County Planning Commission approval of the grant application from the Brandywine Conservancy. Hopefully this can be finalized at the January meeting and the monies can then be distributed to the various parties.

Mr. Forbes stated that he had corresponded with Ms. Spears regarding a dedication ceremony for the Birmingham Hill sign that was recently installed. At this point, she would like the HC to propose three potential dates for a dedication. She has a list of people who should be invited once a date is finalized.

Ms. Fleming noted that as she prepared for the two applications for this evening's meeting, she noticed that Ms. Kelly is not even listed as a member of the existing google drive. Mr. Bedwell will need to send her an invitation to join this.

Mr. Ponticello asked if there is anything that he needs to do in order to continue into a new term on the Historical Commission as his term is expiring at the end of this year? Mr. Forbes said that as far as he knows, his term will automatically renew.

Mr. Forbes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. Seconded by Mr. Ponticello and voted unanimously. The next meeting will be January 24, 2023 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Boorse
HC Secretary