

**Historical Commission of Birmingham Township
Minutes of the meeting of January 23, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Birmingham Township Historical Committee was called to order by Chairperson, Mike Forbes at **7:09pm** in the township building.

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

ABSENT:

Others present:

Mr. Forbes made a motion to approve the minutes as amended from the November 28, 2023 meeting. Ms. Fleming seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Reorganization of Committee for 2024

Ms. Boorse opened discussion for new officers for this calendar year. Ms. Fleming asked if Mr. Forbes still wants to be chairperson. He stated he is willing unless someone else wants to step up. Ms. Fleming nominated Mr. Forbes as Chairperson for 2024; seconded by Mr. Ponticello and passed unanimously.

Mr. Forbes opened the floor for discussion for the Vice Chairperson position. Mr. Forbes nominated Ms. Fleming again for 2024. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Ponticello and it passed unanimously.

The slate for 2024 is: Mike Forbes, Chairperson and Kelly Fleming, Vice Chairperson

2024 Historic Commission Plans

Mr. Forbes has two projects that he thinks the committee members should work on in 2024.

First, he thinks it's important to get the office staff up to speed on identifying the historic properties located nearby houses when applications are submitted for modifications and such to houses within the township. Mr. Forbes would like to create a map that identifies all of the historic resources within the township and places a ring around them to visually see what properties nearby them are affected under the new ordinance. Mr. Bedwell stated that the Chesco Views Map can be used to back fill the google drive using tax parcel codes. Ms. Fleming suggested that an NHS student could do this project and also receive credit for the hours of service. The Historic Commission wants to make sure that the Zoning Officer is aware of the list of historic resources so he is aware when the triggers within the new ordinance are met for notification purposes.

Secondly, Ms. Fleming also suggested that the HC draft various letters to the owners of different types of Historic Houses in the township – specific ones for those that are just on the Historic Resources list and then those that are Historic Resources and also located within the HARB district. This is also something that the HC thinks should be done this year. These should be informational packets that go to each type of resource (historic resource and historic resource located within HARB).

Third, the information related to Historic Resources and HARB should be listed on the township website. Additionally, some of the public Historic Resources (such as the Birmingham Meeting House or some of the Dilworthtown properties) could be highlighted on the website as historic resources within the township.

Additionally, to begin planning for the 250th celebration of the American Revolution. The National celebration will be focused on 2026 but the Chester County Historic Preservation Committee is focusing more on 2027 and tying it all into the Philadelphia campaign. There was an article in the Philadelphia

Inquirer last Sunday about partnering with the American Revolution Museum in Philadelphia. Mr. Forbes would like to have Birmingham township as one of the town tours for Chester County in 2027. The last town tour started at Spackman farm and then migrated to the cemetery, then the Meeting House and ended with a discussion of the battle at Birmingham Hill. Chester County Planning Commission oversees these town tours and Mr. Forbes believes lots of towns will be interested in hosting one during the national celebration, so he wants to get moving on securing a spot for Birmingham township for the summer of 2027. He also noted that another reenactment is being planned to honor the anniversary. Mr. Shirring is heading up the reenactment event.

Mr. Bedwell suggested a summary of Annual Roles and Responsibilities that can be shared with the chairpersons of each of the other township committees. So that each committee knows what the other committee is focusing on each year. He also stated It would also be nice to have a township newsletter that features an historic resource within the township.

Implement the google form that the office should complete whenever there is a change of ownership for Historic Resources within the township. Mr. Forbes will schedule a time with Quina and Michelle to go over the form.

New Business

Mr. Forbes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09pm. Seconded by Ms. Fleming and voted unanimously. The next meeting will be February 27, 2024 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Boorse
HC Secretary