

## **Historical Commission Meeting Minutes**

2/24/09 - The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

**In Attendance:** Lloyd Roach, Mark Gross, Scott Garrison, Donna Landon, Will Snook, Betty Organt, Ed Zaloga. Also in attendance were Jackie Roach and Eric Hawkins.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the 1/20/09 meeting were approved as submitted.

### **Discussion of Cultural Resources Plan Inventory**

The Cultural Resources Inventory is the culmination of three listings: National, State and township.

Will Snook will create a Google map with Cultural Resources Plan Inventory plotted on it for use at the next meeting.

It was noted that while many owners of historical properties enjoy sharing the history of their properties there are others who don't want publicity.

### **Eric Hawkins: History of the Dilworth Farmhouse**

The Farmland is on what was once the Oakland Road commercial route for taking local produce to market. References to the farmland exist back as far as 1680, 1692. It appears on a map by an English topographer, which was created just after the Battle of the Brandywine. The Dilworth family has owned the property since 1840. The house currently on this property was built in 1838. It has been designated as having no historical significance by H.A.R.B.

It was noted by Jackie Roach that Arden Forge would be coming before the Historical Commission for evaluation of historical significance.

There was a motion by Mark Gross that the Historical Commission should define the criteria for historical significance as it pertains to Birmingham Township. Betty Organt seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Definitions of historical significance from the National, State and local levels will be considered at the next meeting.

### **325th Anniversary of Birmingham Township**

It was pointed out by Mark Gross that the 325<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the township is really in 2011. In 1684 William Brinton moved to this area and was given a land grant by William Penn. The township was organized as a municipal district in 1686.

Lloyd Roach will write a note to the Planning Commission relaying this information as it relates to the 325th Anniversary Celebration Plans.

### **Township History**

Mark Gross has been in touch with Dr. Wayne Hanley the chairman of the History Department of West Chester University and Dr Karin Gedge is willing to assign students to research and update the history of Birmingham Township if the scope of the project is defined. There are two projects:

1. Update and reprint the "History of Birmingham Township" by E Arthur James, which was written in 1971. There is a copy catalogued at the Historical Society.

2. Work with the township and George Thorpe, President of Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates to place markers in areas of historical significance.

The commission members agreed that Mark should move forward with these projects.

### **Web Page for the Historical Commission**

The township offered to host a web page for the Historical Commission. Will Snook volunteered to set up a page, which will include information about who we are and what we are doing as well as contact information.

### **Specialty License Plates**

Will Snook shared the information he gathered about the license plates including a number of sample designs. The cost is of a plate is \$20.00 and there is a minimum number requirement of 300 plates. There is a \$500 cost associated with the design and production of sample plates submitted for PennDOT approval. Thoughts for increasing community involvement and interest include:

- Soliciting designs and input from local artists, residents and schools.
- Creating a mechanism for people to view the designs and vote for their favorite on the web page.

(The fact sheet with all requirements for this program are attached to the hard copy of these minutes and filed in a binder I am keeping for our meeting minutes.)

### **Other items**

It was noted that Karen Marshall, Chester County Parks and Recreation, Heritage Preservation Coordinator has offered to be of service to the Historical Commission and attend a meeting.

It was suggested by Mark Gross that the Historical Commission meet at the Historical Society so that everyone can see the resources available there. The Historical Society is closed on Tuesdays so we would have to change the day of our meeting. Mark will look into making arrangements.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Minutes submitted by

Donna Landon

Secretary