

BIRMINGHAM TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 27, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm in the Township Building. Present: Lloyd Roach, Ed Zaloga, Betty Organt, Will Snook, Scott Garrison, and intern Sean Kennedy.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved as presented. (Zaloga, Organt)

Mrs. Organt said Sean needed to get started on the project, as yet unspecified. In anticipation, Sean will visit the Brandywine Battlefield State Park, with the goal of teaching his Early American History class about the Brandywine Battle.

Mr. Roach said the budget was presented to the Supervisors. The Supervisors did write a check to the Chester County Historical Society, as requested, did agree to pay the Historical Commission's expenses, and did hire a Historical Commission secretary.

Mr. Roach reported that he had met with Karen Marshall, the County Preservation Officer, who gave him a set of township map sections and a list of 77 Birmingham Township historic structures, plus a 1980 description of each of them. Ms. Marshall emphasized the importance of Birmingham because the *entire* township is within the National Landmark. Ms. Marshall asked that each structure be located on the maps – using the tax parcel number. Serendipitously, Martha Wolf visited from California the same evening and completed most of the task. The Historical Commission is asked to update the pictures and descriptions. Will Snook suggested including the latitude and longitude for each place, to help with future identification; this can be done with *Google Earth* or a GPS-enabled cell phone. Ms. Marshall also wants the Historical Commission to add to the list and maps the many additional historic structures in the township. Ms. Marshall has not yet shared the standardized form for the property descriptions. When she does, Will can put it in a pdf and send it around for everyone to fill in as they go through their lists. The county's grant, due for completion in June 2010, is for structure identification and will result in a bound volume. Mr. Snook will re-order the distribution list to follow the numbers of the list from Ms. Marshall. Mr. Roach asked for an "Inventory Manager" and Will Snook volunteered; he will update his master database with each new submission. Mr. Roach will ask the county to send Mr. Snook the database with the updated information supplied by Martha Wolf. Mr. Snook said the Historical Commission can design its own form and still share the information with the county. The plan for the Commission is to go out in teams of two to digitally photograph the structures and record identifying attributes.

Mr. Roach noted that the RPOS Chairman has proposed to the Supervisors a bunch of signs and birdhouses for the Birmingham/Meetinghouse Trail. With Will Snook's proposal for electronic information being made available via cell phone, Mr. Roach asked for consensus in suggesting the alternative electronic option in place of the physical sign proposal. The members agreed unanimously.

Announcements: Oxford Borough is *selling* plaques to occupants of historic structures.

December 10 will be the next meeting of the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force at the Chadds Ford Historical Society, in case anyone wants to go. The Task Force is composed of representatives of the townships in the National Landmark.

Karen Marshall gave Lloyd Roach a list of “properties of interest” in the township, including the Sullivan property, Fair Meadow, Cannon Hill, and Heartsease.

Mr. Snook asked if the Historical Commission could get business cards to identify themselves as they visit the properties and/or approach the property owners. Mr. Roach asked that the HC members email him the information they wanted on the cards, after which he will ask the Township Secretary for the cards.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00. (Zaloga, Organt)

The next meeting is scheduled for 7 pm on November 24.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacquie Roach, Secretary

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