

BIRMINGHAM TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 24, 2009

Chairman Roach called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm in the Township Building. In attendance besides the chairman were Will Snook, Scott Garrison, Mark Gross, and Betty Organt.

The minutes of the October 27 meeting were approved as distributed. (Gross, Snook)

Mr. Roach said he thinks most of the budget requests have been approved.

Mr. Roach reported that he'd asked the Supervisors to consult the Historical Commission before putting signs up on the trail. The Supervisors said a member of RPOS will consult with him. Will Snook suggested temporary signage until the hi-tech system is running. Will described the hi-tech system as follows: When you're at a site, you dial in and press a number and it will describe whatever we put into it. At the next stop, you can press a different button, etc. If you call in, you can be asked how you prefer the information (voice, text, visuals). Mr. Roach suggested that Nextel would cooperate on this project because of their pending antenna application. Mr. Snook suggested publicity for Nextel at the groundbreaking of the new system.

Mr. Gross said the Township needs a master plan for the Historical Commission with specific jobs (goals) in it. He suggested a Historical Commission "retreat" in early 2010. He said the historic sites inventory and the virtual signage should be part of the overall plan. Mr. Snook suggested taking a look at the presentation of a place we like (e.g. Gettysburg. Mr. Gross noted, "*our* battle is hugely significant." Betty Organt remarked that people tend to flock to sites where we won. Mr. Gross made a motion for a visioning session in beginning of the year. Dr. Garrison seconded it and it passed with all in favor. The Chairman put Mr. Gross in charge of planning it and putting together an outline for it. Mr. Gross said there are volunteer guides in Gettysburg who charge \$35 for a three-hour tour. Mr. Snook said Birmingham Road would be a perfect setting for such a tour. Mrs. Organt said Shaun Kennedy would be volunteering at Brandywine Battlefield State Park. Mrs. Organt said the park has a book of Birmingham sites.

Mr. Roach reported that he'd finally received a survey form from Karen Marshall (the one used by PHMC). Will Snook said he'd found other forms (e.g. from Maine and California), that all are boring, but the best was from California. It has textual history, a photo, and a map, etc. Mr. Snook distributed a form he assembled and proposed it for Birmingham's use. He explained that it could have a map drawn manually or one from on line. You can fill out the form on line, press Submit, and it will be dumped into the database he creates. Then the information can be sorted. We can input all the 77 properties, put them in the database, and they can even receive comments. Mr. Gross suggested adding the original and current owners. Mr. Snook said the one technical glitch was the cost of a cgi database. He will contact Gary Summers and tell Lloyd the cost. Mr. Roach liked the idea of the database being on line, so the public can be invited to add info. Mr. Snook said it can be connected to the map and there could be multiple

picture thumbnails. Roach thanked Mr. Snook for all his work. Mr. Snook asked that everyone take a look at his form and make suggestions for additions or deletions. He will get something started and give everyone a password. He said, if you go out on your survey team and find omissions on the form, email him and he will add them.

New Member: Mr. Gross visited Matt Bedwell to discuss becoming a member of the Historical Commission, but also suggested Richard Moore as a possible new member. Mr. Roach moved that, pending the outcome of Mr. Gross's approach to Matt Bedwell, Lloyd will recommend that the Supervisors appoint Mr. Bedwell. Dr. Garrison seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Arden Forge: Mr. Roach reported that he had met with the architect (Art Bernardon) (at the suggestion of the Supervisors). The owners want to renovate but are having trouble meeting Township regulations such as parking; they are considering parking swaps with the Dilworthtown Inn. The building is to be restored to its original look. The Forge has long ago been modified. The log ruin must come down. Mr. Roach insisted that the owners take photos of the log building before its razing. They intend to add a modern wing. Mr. Roach suggested that the Historical Commission members go to the Planning Commission and Supervisor meetings to learn more or to comment.

Announcements:

The next Brandywine Battlefield Task Force meeting will be on Thursday, December 10, 10 am to noon, at the Chadds Ford Historical Society barn. All are invited.

There will be no December meeting. The next meeting will be January 26.

The 2010 meeting dates will be:

January 26	April 27	July 27	October 26
February 23	May 25	August 24	November 23
March 23	June 22	September 28	

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06. (Garrison, Organt)

Respectfully submitted,

Jacquie Roach
Secretary

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