

**Birmingham Township Historical Commission**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of February 23, 2010**

At 7:04 p.m. in the Township Building, Chairman Lloyd Roach declared a quorum and called to order the regular meeting of the Birmingham Township Historical Commission. Other Members present at the meeting were Matt Bedwell, Scott Garrison, Betty Organt, Will Snook, Mark Gross and Ed Zaloga.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the January 26 meeting were approved. (Gross, Snook, all in favor)

**Reorganization:** To reorganize, Mr. Roach appointed Mr. Snook temporary Chairman. Mr. Roach announced that he was not putting his hat in the ring this year. Mr. Snook asked what the Members thought was the most important job of the Chairman. The answers were communication (Gross et al) and spokesperson and setting the path (Bedwell). Mr. Snook asked if anyone wanted to volunteer for the position. Mr. Roach nominated Mr. Snook as Chairman and Mr. Gross as Vice-Chairman; the Members guaranteed them their support they accepted. Mr. Bedwell seconded and the motion was passed with all in favor. Mr. Roach said he would run the current meeting and then turn the gavel over to Mr. Snook.

With Mr. Gross and Mr. Snook having 2010 listed as their terms of office, the Members were unclear as to whether that meant the beginning or the end of the year 2010. Mr. Roach explained that the term endings were staggered so that the Commission will have some knowledge continuity. The Members will recommend that Mr. Gross and Mr. Snook be reappointed to the Historical Commission. (Roach, Garrison, all in favor)

**Classification:** In response to a communication from Chester County Preservation Officer Karen Marshall, Mr. Roach asked that the sites from the Birmingham Township Historic Sites Survey be classified as Class I, II, or III. Mr. Bedwell will obtain the list of those Birmingham Township sites that are on the National Register so that the other sites may be classified. On the Site Survey Form, Mr. Snook will add a National Register field for those sites listed there. Dr. Garrison noted that Google Earth is putting National Register sites on their maps.

**Inventory:** Mr. Roach asked Mr. Snook to provide a tutorial for filling out the Site Survey Form. Mr. Snook distributed paper copies and displayed the form on his laptop computer. It was agreed that a "proposed classification" field be added, as well as a field for the current historic site owner. Members also agreed that the longitude and latitude chosen should be where the driveway meets the public road, that "architectural style" could be guessed at from the picture, "year constructed" could be marked "circa" in the absence of concrete information such as a date stone, and that "Survey Team comments" would be a catchall for information needing validation. Mr. Gross remarked that it should be a goal of the Historical Commission to validate the records and correct misinformation wherever possible. Mr. Bedwell suggested putting estimated dates within asterisks (e.g. \*1775\*). It was agreed that the completed survey form should be sent to

the site owner for comments and additional information. Mr. Gross volunteered to spend some time researching the validity of some of the information. Mr. Snook said to hand-sketch the location of the buildings on the lots (e.g. house on corner, barn behind). Pictures of the sites/buildings should be emailed separately from the survey forms and team members should try to get site owners to provide copies of any old pictures or have them scanned in the Township office. Mr. Zaloga suggested asking for the pictures when the surveys are sent for site-owner comments. Mr. Snook discussed the rest of the fields. Mr. Snook emphasized that the survey is just for when the teams are in the field and that all of the information can be verified/corrected/modified later.

**Signage:** Mr. Roach asked if any Members would meet with RPOS to discuss signage at Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill. Mr. Gross asked why there needed to be signs. Mr. Roach said he thought it was to give information about the sites. Mr. Bedwell said he thought Tom McGuire was working with the County on signage accuracy. Mr. Zaloga said there should be some limits set on the signage and all agreed that the signs should be “unobtrusive” and not like billboards. Further discussion included sign styles and the fact that signs had been stolen at Sandy Hollow. Mr. Snook will contact Jay Monteith from RPOS; Mr. Gross and Mr. Bedwell will meet with RPOS to discuss signage.

**Arden Forge:** Mr. Roach said that, due to insufficient notice, last month’s vote on the Arden Forge plan was invalid, but no official notice has yet been received that the Historical Commission is to comment on the plan.

**Homepage:** Mr. Zaloga reviewed his suggestions for a homepage for the Historical Commission, using Thornbury Township’s page as an example of what might be included. It was agreed that a picture or pictures should be selected for inclusion; no changes were suggested for Mr. Zaloga’s format.

**New Business:** Mr. Snook suggested that the Commission reach out to one or more real historians to volunteer as advisors. Mr. Bedwell volunteered to talk to Tom McGuire (author of The Philadelphia Campaign). All Commission members liked Mr. Gross’s suggestion for having periodic public events - such as lectures – to interest and enlighten residents about the Township’s history and the Historical Commission’s activities.

After the Members had thanked Mr. Roach for his leadership and congratulated Mr. Snook on his new position, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacquie Roach  
Secretary

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.  
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.  
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.