

**Birmingham Township Historical Commission**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of July 26, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Birmingham Township Historical Commission began at 7 pm in the township building. Chairman Mark Gross declared a quorum with Scott Garrison, Ed Zaloga, Betty Organt, Lloyd Roach and Matt Bedwell in attendance.

The minutes of the May 24 meeting were approved after having been corrected to mention that the township license plates were originally Will Snook's idea. (Roach et al)

325<sup>th</sup> anniversary event: Mr. Gross reported on the progress. The Historical Commission will have a tent; Mark Gross will bring a display table. Lloyd Roach may be able to bring an extra table. Mr. Gross mentioned that the meeting room closet has a wealth of stuff to be catalogued, including musket balls (Mark borrowed 4 for the display), pamphlets and pictures. Mr. Gross is bringing 4 period weapons to show and invited others to bring items from their personal collections. Mr. Zaloga asked about insurance. Mr. Roach will bring some chairs. Mrs. Organt and Mr. Zaloga will also bring chairs. Mr. Gross wants a team to sort the closet contents. Mr. Roach and Mr. Bedwell will help get stuff from the closet.

Chester County Historical Society membership renewal: All voted to renew. (Roach, Organt, all in favor)

Mr. Gross reported that Supervisor John Conklin asked for a written reason for the HC not merging with HARB. Mr. Gross distributed a flow chart (attached herewith) showing the process for a permit application, beginning with the question "Is it in the Historic District." The HC voted unanimously to recommend keeping HARB and the HC separate, but having them work together on appropriate applications.

Signs: The HC voted unanimously to recommend that the Township erect welcome signs at several entry points, possibly Dilworthtown, Birmingham and Country Club, Pocopson, and Creek Road leaving Chadds Ford. Several logos were discussed: an oak tree, a cannon, a flag, etc.

Mr. Gross said he would send a letter to the Supervisors regarding the signs, the HARB plan, and the Chester County Historical Society.

New business: Mr. Gross said the closet contents must be inventoried. HC members were invited to email other ideas.

Mr. Zaloga said the down payment on the license plate is \$500 and a minimum order of 300 is necessary. The state charges \$20 per plate and the township can charge more. Ed will prepare a way to advertise them at the 325<sup>th</sup> event.

Mr. Roach asked that the HC reiterate their objection to demolition by neglect of the Steele and Dilworth farmhouses. He noted that the owner of the house on 926 had been cited twice.

At 7:30 Supervisor John Conklin arrived and said there had been no *formal* discussion regarding the HARB/HC relationship. Mr. Gross explained the flow chart. Mr. Conklin said people are scanning the documents in the closet.

Mr. Gross said Richard Moore is bringing his cannon to the 325<sup>th</sup> event. Mr. Gross noted that this was a first visit by a Board of Supervisors member.

Mr. Bedwell reported on his having received an award for the township atlas preparations when he attended the June 22 dinner of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network.

Mr. Gross attended a Battlefield Task Force meeting at which a Brandywine Conservancy representative reported on other properties that may be preserved.

HC members expressed hope that Will Snook might be willing to return to the HC; the interactive map he began is still available.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacquie Roach

# Draft of Process for HARB and HC Interaction

