

**Historical Commission of Birmingham Township
Minutes of the meeting of April 25, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Birmingham Township Historical Committee was called to order by Chairman Matt Bedwell at 7:27 pm in the township building.

PRESENT: HC Members: Matt Bedwell, Mike Forbes, Carla Westerman, Kate Marshall

ABSENT: Nancy Needham

Mr. Bedwell made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 23, 2016 and March 22, 2016 meetings. Motion was seconded by Mr. Forbes. Motion passed unanimously.

Update on the Township Ordinance Special Subcommittee

The HC is working on finalizing a memo to the subcommittee that is reviewing the ordinances. The goal is to have the HC and HARB ordinances complement each other. Any of the sites or properties within the township that are affected or affect the historic landscapes should be identified and indicated on the township map.

Discussion also ensued about updating the township maps to include view sheds to help with understanding where buildings can be built and how they will impact the surrounding area. Ms. Marshall states that the BT guidelines are fairly extensive and suggests that the guidelines simply be adopted as part of the ordinance.

Steele Property Update (1140 West Street Rd)

Mr. Bedwell provides an update regarding a conversation he had with Rich Jensen concerning this Historic Resource. Apparently during the renovations on the deck they needed approval to remove the porches in order to re-point the structure. Mr. Bedwell agreed to this as it is not part of the actual structure.

New Business

Mr. Bedwell mentioned that two realtors have recently contacted him regarding updates to historic homes. First, an architect (Josh Allison) contacted Matt regarding the process for being able to add a pool house to the already existing pool on the historic Roundelay property. The pool is within 300 feet of HR#51. They already have preliminary Brandywine Conservancy approval. However, that does not necessarily mean such renovations would be automatically approved by the Birmingham Township Historical Commission. During Matt's discussion with the architect, he also mentioned that the owner wants to renovate the kitchen.

Second, Mr. Bedwell was also contacted by a realtor and the potential buyer for Birmingham Odd Fellows Lodge (HR#29) on Old Wilmington Pike. The buyer wants to put an addition on the rear of the existing house. Mr. Bedwell providing him some preliminary information, however, this is a situation

where it would be nice to simply be able to give them a standards brochure to walk them through the process.

Ms. Westerman mentions that Frolic Weymouth recently died and notes that she would be willing to write a letter to the Brandywine Conservancy from the BT HC regarding his loss. Mr. Bedwell suggests that perhaps the first HC Award go to Frolic Weymouth, who was clearly a visionary in the preservation of our area.

Diver Property Landscape Plan Review

The HC reviewed the Diver Landscape plans that were left on the table for this meeting. The HC notes that the plans were made by the applicant's company which is not a certified landscape architect. The plan does not indicate what trees were removed during the construction process. The proposed landscape plan does not address the Brandywine Conservancy's agreed upon request to shield the battlefield vistas, the adjacent historical houses surrounding the property and the view when exiting from the Birmingham Lafayette Cemetery. The plan should also include evergreens interwoven into the other proposed trees as they will be more of a permanent shield. The evergreens and trees should be of a mature caliber. It is also noted that the date on this plan is June 23, 2015, yet it was just received by the Historical Commission. There was also discussion about the dirt at the back of the property that is continually being carried into the small stream at the bottom of the hill. A motion was made by Mr. Bedwell to approve the above mentioned recommendations to the Diver Landscape Plan. Motion was seconded by Mr. Forbes and passed unanimously.

Mr. Bedwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38pm. Seconded by Ms. Westerman and voted unanimously. The next meeting will be May 26, 2015 at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Boorse
HC Secretary