

**Historical Commission of Birmingham Township
Minutes of the meeting of August 28, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Birmingham Township Historical Committee was called to order by Chairperson, Mike Forbes at **7:20 pm** in the township building.

PRESENT: HC Members: Kelly Fleming, Mike Forbes, John Ponticello

ABSENT: Matt Bedwell, Jeff Janofsky

Others present: Tom Ray, Jesse Migdal, Karen Marshall

Mr. Ponticello made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 24, 2018. Mr. Forbes seconded the motion and it passed with one abstention (Ms. Fleming who was absent in July).

Application for 1175 Brintons Bridge Rd modifications (HR#49)

Mr. Ray, the applicant (on behalf of the Wyeth Foundation), presented engineering drawings from Daniel Consulting Engineers, dated 6/14/2018. The school house located at 1175 Brintons Bridge Road was purchased in the 1980's by the Wyeth family. At that time, they did a renovation and added a small apartment to the back of the schoolhouse. There is a crawl space below this area and it is below grade and thus takes on water. This has caused deterioration over time and needs to be addressed. The engineer has recommended removing the back addition section of the house (leaving the school house intact), raising the height of the block approximately 2 feet to make it above grade. They plan to maintain the same footprint, raise the foundation -- this will change the roofline in the back. Currently there is a fake slate roof with minimal slope. They plan to replace the roof with a standing seam roof since there is not much slope.

Currently there is a garage on the left of the addition. They are planning to eliminate the garage and just make it an entryway with a utility room. In the current structure there is a bedroom, kitchen and full bath. The area is being used as a library at this time and thus they are planning to eliminate the bedroom and simply have an office area, with a small kitchenette and a half bath.

Mr. Forbes asked for clarification that these plans do not include any modifications to the existing historic resources. Mr. Ray confirmed that the only thing they will be doing to the historic structure will be flashing in the new roof to the back portion. They will be adding gutters to the rear of the new addition which will hopefully help alleviate any future water issues.

Mr. Forbes completed the required form throughout the discussion during the meeting and read the answers as he completed the form.

Mr. Forbes made a motion that the HC recommend approval to the BOS for the demolition/modifications to restore the 1980's addition to the back side/garage of the Wyeth Schoolhouse (HR#49) located at 1175 Brintons Bridge Rd. per the application. Ms. Fleming seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

HC Guidelines: Checklist and notification of neighbors timeframe:

Mr. Forbes discussed with committee members the status of the revised Checklist, Guidelines and Application that Kim Venzie had drafted a couple months ago. He had a conversation with Ms. Venzie

today and she confirmed that the ordinance does not specify an actual number of days for the neighbor notification. Thus, this number can be changed from the current 7 to a more realistic 14 days in the guidelines. Ms. Venzie provided updated documents and Mr. Forbes sent them out to the committee members to review. There was discussion and the members are going to read over and provide comments on these documents by the next meeting. At that meeting they plan to make a recommendation to the BOS for updating the Guidelines and providing applicants with a checklist to help them navigate the process for historic resources.

New Business

Mr. Forbes read a letter that was addressed to the Historical Commission from the Knolls of Birmingham HOA asking if they can provide them with a contact who provides grants for assistance in maintaining historic properties. They are referring to the Davis farmhouse (HR#27). Because Birmingham Township is a municipal member of the network, Ms. Marshall offered the network preservation carpenter to go out and provide an assessment at the request of the Historic Commission. Mr. Forbes asked Kelly Fleming to reach out to the township office to find out what the conditional use agreement was when that property was developed.

Ms. Karen Marshall attended the meeting to update the Committee on the date change for the Candlelight tour from December of 2018 to December of 2019. They will be looking to feature a couple homes possibly along the Birmingham corridor for that tour in 2019.

Mr. Forbes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21pm. Seconded by Mr. Ponticello and voted unanimously. The next meeting will be September 25, 2018 at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Boorse
HC Secretary