

Historical Commission of Birmingham Township
Minutes of the meeting of October 23, 2018 *continued to November 26, 2018*

The regular meeting of the Birmingham Township Historical Committee was called to order by Chairperson, Mike Forbes at **7:16 pm** in the township building.

PRESENT: HC Members: *Matt Bedwell, Kelly Fleming, Mike Forbes, Jeff Janofsky, John Ponticello*

ABSENT:

Others present: *Dan Hill*

Mr. Forbes made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 25, 2018 with the amended changes made via email. Mr. Bedwell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Brandywine Battlefield Task Force:

Mr. Forbes asked if anyone had given thought from the discussion at the last meeting about attending the November 27th meeting of this external organization with him. Ms. Fleming is interested, but is unable to commit at this time due to possible family commitments. She will tentatively plan to attend and notify Mr. Forbes the week before the meeting.

National Historic Landmark Connectivity Plan Update:

Mr. Forbes notes that currently there has been no update from the BOS on whether this plan is able to move forward. Mr. Hill notes that they are awaiting answers to the questions/issues that arose during the presentation from Sheila Fleming at the July BOS meeting.

Old Business

Mr. Forbes has not sent a letter to the HOA for the Knolls of Birmingham as of this meeting. However, he will do that this week indicating that they can contact Karen Marshall of the Chester County Preservation Network in order to utilize the offer for a preservation architect to go out and review the Historic Resource and give them suggestions on the necessary repairs.

Discussion ensued again about the electronic library of Historical Resources. Mr. Bedwell needs to send login information to Mr. Janofsky and Mr. Ponticello so that they can become more familiar with the library. There was much discussion about who should have access to the electronic library and the privacy issues of having it available via the website.

Mr. Janofsky asked if the documents that are submitted to the township are handled electronically or on paper. He believes that ultimately the goal should be to move to a more electronic process within the township. He looked at the West Chester Borough website and noted that their site is very user friendly with the ability to click on a document library to obtain forms and such.

New Business

Mr. Forbes asked Mr. Hill (the BOS liaison to the HC) for an update as to where the BOS is with the recommendation that the HC made last November for changes to the current Ordinance and the classification of Historic Resources. According to Mr. Hill, the Board has been reviewing the process and

is definitely on board with making the process less arduous. He looks forward to reviewing the changes to the documents that the HC is recommending tonight.

Mr. Hill notes that he is new to the BOS as of January and thus is just becoming more familiar with the presentation that Carla Westerman and Mike Forbes made last November.

Ms. Fleming asked what the recommendations were from last year. Mr. Forbes noted the recommendations were changes to the Ordinance as to the way historic resources are identified via a list of criteria vs. the current three classifications. There was also a recommendation to notify new home owners when they move into an historic resource of the additional requirements they may be subject to when making an modifications to their home.

Mr. Hill briefly discussed the issues regarding the combination of HC and HARB meetings when an applicant is required to present to both committees. This issue is being reviewed by the township solicitor to see if the township can implement a joint meeting for those situations going forward...in an attempt to streamline the process for the applicant.

There was some discussion about the remaining meetings for 2018. Mr. Forbes made a motion to cancel the December 26, 2018 HC meeting; noting it is scheduled the day after Christmas and several of the HC members will not be available. Seconded by Mr. Janofsky and voted unanimously.

Mr. Forbes made a motion to continue this October meeting to Monday, November 26, 2018 at 7:15pm. The continuation of this meeting is due to a conflict that some of the HC members have with the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force meeting that is also scheduled for Tuesday, November 27. Mr. Forbes also made a motion to cancel the November 27, 2018 meeting due to this same conflict. Mr. Bedwell seconded these motions and they passed unanimously.

This is a continuation of the October 23, 2018 meeting and the business conducted is indicated in italicized notations. (The italicized members listed above were in attendance at the October meeting, but not at the continued meeting). The only item on the continued agenda is consideration of the proposed repairs on HR#22. (November 26, 2018 at 7:24pm)

1301 Birmingham Rd. (HR#22)

Mr. Forbes opened the floor for discussion regarding the Application for the Adey's updating of the barn on their property. They are planning to replace three walls on the barn (as one wall has been replaced previously at some point prior to their obtaining the property). They are planning to have the new three walls replaced with white pine board and batten. They are planning to paint the walls since it will make all of the walls consistent - rather than one older wall and three newer walls. They are also proposing a new metal roof to replace the existing roof - a sample of the roofing material is presented to the committee.

Mr. Forbes made a recommendation to the BOS to approve the Adey application to repair and replace the siding and roof on the existing barn located at HR#22. The motion was seconded by Mr. Janofsky and passed unanimously. Ms. Adey will be attending the BOS meeting on Monday, December 3, 2018.

Mr. Forbes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59pm. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ponticello and passed unanimously. Mr. Forbes noted the December meeting was cancelled and the next meeting will be in January of 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Boorse
HC Secretary