

Historical Commission of Birmingham Township
Minutes of the meeting of March 26, 2019

The regular meeting of the Birmingham Township Historical Committee was called to order by Chairperson, Mike Forbes at **7:15 pm** in the township building.

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

ABSENT:

Others present: Dan Hill

Mr. Forbes made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2019. Mr. Bedwell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Review and Discussion of Vision Partnership Program for Brandywine Battlefield

Mr. Forbes notes that Sheila Fleming attended the March BOS meeting and presented the Program again with more details ironed out. After considerable discussion, the BOS approved the Vision Partnership Program with Birmingham Township as the lead project manager on the grant proposal application with the following four stipulations:

1. There will be no more than four payments made to the consultant from the township;
2. There will be mandatory participation from both the Historical Commission and Recreation, Parks and Open Space committee members;
3. There is an agreement among the participating municipalities that there will be seven equal payments;
4. There will be no additional commitment for future expenses coming from the outgrowth of the Plan.

Mr. Forbes wants to discuss the roles required from the HC for the length of this project. Clearly the BOS wants someone from the HC to take the lead role of coordinating the project in conjunction with the Brandywine Conservancy. The Brandywine Conservancy has agreed to ghost write the grant application and ghost coordinate the project because Ms. Sheila Fleming knows all the other participant (within the county and the other municipalities). Mr. Janofsky asked what the role will actually entail? Mr. Forbes states that the role will be assisting with the RFP process, working with Sheila throughout the process to hire the consultant. Mr. Forbes states that Ann Siemer (Chairperson of RPOS) is also asking for a point person from that committee to work in conjunction with the HC person throughout this project.

Timing is: grant proposal application in April, will know by the summer if the grant is approved by the County. The heavy work for the HC will be late summer, early fall of this year to select the consultant. It is not a full-time job but will require a couple of hours a week. It will basically be working with Sheila. Ms. Kelly Fleming indicated that after the last BOS meeting, her neighbor Doug Marshall told her he would be willing to be a "behind the scenes" helper with the RFP writing as this aligns with what he does professionally. Mr. Jeff Janofsky volunteered to be the lead person handling this project for the HC.

Brandywine Battlefield Task Force Update

Ms. Kelly Fleming recently attended the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force meeting (Karen Marshall) and they received a \$45000 grant and are providing each municipality \$3000 to provide a sign (similar to the

blue sign at the intersection of 926 and Birmingham Rd). The goal is to provide more information to the public about the Battle of the Brandywine with signage indicating key location points of what occurred during the Battle.

The Brandywine Battlefield Task Force would ideally like to place a sign at the Jones Ford location of Sullivan's Blunder (next to the replaced Pocopson Bridge and Fenceworks). However, this location does not provide the ability for cars to pull off the road safely to view the sign and area. The ultimate goal is that the Brandywine Battlefield task Force is creating an App that people can access in order to do a car tour of the Brandywine Battlefield area. Andrew of the official Battlefield park on Rt. 1 has agreed to put together the wording for each of the signs for consistency.

The details are an agreement of service between the Birmingham Township HC and the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force. They will provide \$1500 when the agreement is signed and then the remaining \$1500 when the sign is installed. The only expense to the township is the actual installation of the sign in the ground at the designated location.

Ms. Fleming made a recommendation to forward the Agreement of Services with the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force committee to the Birmingham Township RPOS to solicit their input with a recommendation that the signage be installed at either Sandy Hill or Birmingham Hill. Mr. Forbes seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

New Business

Mr. Pratap Kesarkar (owner of 1370 Old Wilmington Pike) is in attendance to discuss his concern with the upcoming subdivision at 1360 Old Wilmington Pike. He has reviewed the township minutes from the meeting a year ago regarding demolishing the existing house at 1360 Old Wilmington Pike. He states that he did not receive notification of the meeting to discuss this topic. Subsequent to the demolition meeting, there was a subdivision proposal at the Planning Commission meeting and he states he also did not receive notification of that meeting either. He has a copy of Section 122-36.8 of the Historic code and has a number of concerns that the process was not followed. He will forward a list of his concerns to the HC so that Mr. Forbes can have them in writing and he plans to attend the BOS meeting on April 1, 2019.

Mr. Forbes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm. Seconded by Mr. Bedwell and voted unanimously. The next meeting will be April 23, 2019 at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Boorse
HC Secretary