

**Historical Commission of Birmingham Township**  
**Minutes of the meeting of May 28, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Birmingham Township Historical Committee was called to order by Chairperson, Mike Forbes at **7:21 pm** in the township building.

PRESENT: HC Members: Mike Forbes, Kelly Fleming, Jeff Janofsky

ABSENT: Matt Bedwell, John Ponticello

Others present: Dan Hill (BOS liaison)

Mr. Forbes made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2019 meeting. Ms. Janofsky seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Review status of Vision Partnership Program (VPP) Application**

Mr. Forbes attended a meeting with Chester County Planning Commission on May 15th with Susan Elks to review the new requirements for the Vision Partnership Program. He attended with Sheila Fleming. Each municipality who is electing to be a partner must attend one of two meetings (5/15 or 5/30). One change that has happened is that each municipality must also submit an official signed letter agreeing to be a participant. This letter must be signed by a member of the governing body of the municipality. Another new criteria item for grant approval is that each municipality must submit a Heritage Interpretation Plan. This is a new eligible project type under the VPP and very closely relates to the interpretation of the battlefield that we are planning to do already.

Sheila Fleming wants to have a meeting in early June to finalize the application for the grant application which is due and must be submitted online by June 28, 2019. Mr. Forbes believes this is a perfect place for Mr. Janofsky to jump into his role in this process.

Discussion ensued about whether the document that was shared with the group regarding the VPP was actually the correct one or if that was the information pertaining to the project that Kelly Fleming is working on. Mr. Forbes is going to get clarification on the document and report back to the group.

**New Business**

Ms. Fleming indicated that she attended the Birmingham Township RPOS May meeting to discuss the proposed signage for the Brandywine Battlefield Historic Interpretation Plan. They had a couple of questions about the exact placement of the signage:

1. Where will the sign be located so that people can actually pull off the road to read it;
2. Secondly, they want to verify that the verbiage will not duplicate what they already have displayed at Birmingham Hill for people to read.
3. RPOS discussed locations for the signage such as: Birmingham Hill, Lafayette monument, Dilworth Barn (potential Heritage Center). Discussion ensued between the HC members about other various locations to locate the sign. Mr. Hill suggests that another potential location for a sign explaining a part of the story that doesn't usually get told is on Creek Road where the British and American armies traded cannon bombardments -- this would be located opposite the entrance to The Reserve at Chadds Ford.

Next steps are for the parties involved to meet at the potential sites and determine the best one for placement. Then they will have Andrew work on the wording.

Mr. Forbes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm. Seconded by Mr. Janofsky and voted unanimously. The next meeting will be June 25, 2019 at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Boorse  
HC Secretary