

**Historical Commission of Birmingham Township
Minutes of the meeting of September 24, 2019**

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

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

ABSENT:

Others present: Brad Webb, Bob Rafetto

Mr. Forbes made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 23, 2019 meeting. Mr. Ponticello seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Review Shed Addition to Inn Keeper's Kitchen (HR#30), 1388 Old Wilmington Pike

The applicant sent notification letters to all neighbors within 500' of the proposed application. The letters were sent to 23 neighbors via return receipt certified mail. However, the notices were sent on September 17, which is only 7 days ahead of time. The applicant indicated that the Guidelines page that he received from Kim in the office indicated the notice should be sent 7 days ahead, not 14 days. Due to this discrepancy, the HC will hear the application tonight and discuss it, but continue any decision until next month.

Mr. Pretap Kesarkar is in attendance and lives within the 500' range of the application and indicated that he has only received a pink notice that he has a certified letter to be picked up.

Mr. Bob Rafetto (owner) and Brad Webb (partner) explained the outdoor smoker oven that they are hoping to get approval for tonight is to be used for the upcoming wine festival. They are designed to be located outside but do need to be covered. The applicant worked with the health department first. The location of the oven is to be in a paved area behind the Inn, but not in a parking space. This is a temporary shed, attached to the ground so that it can't slide around, however it is not a permanent structure.

This application was presented to HARB last week and they had a concern about the color and wanted to see the paint that was being suggested actually applied to the shed. The applicant has photos of the one side that they painted per the HARB request.

Mr. Forbes asked for clarification as to if the shed already exists or if this is a new application for construction as the application states. Mr. Webb indicated that most of the shed already has been constructed (except for the remaining panel to be added to the studs on the back side of the shed); he had received a cease and desist order from the township for the construction of the shed. They had only initially dealt with the Chester County Health Department.

Mr. Bedwell asked if the intent is to take this from a temporary to permanent structure. Mr. Webb stated that they may decide to use it again in the future and would then apply for a permit for a more permanent use. However, the actual shed they have constructed will be sufficient to be used in a more permanent fashion - although it can easily be disassembled as it is currently designed.

Mr. Janofsky asked if the applicant's intention is to make the structure a permanent structure in the future. The applicant stated that has not been determined yet - it depends on if the ownership changes hands. However, they will re-apply if their intent becomes to have a more permanent structure.

Mr. Forbes answered the questions on the required HC Form - which in many cases is not applicable as the new structure is currently intended to be temporary and is a shed not attached to the actual Historic Resource.

Mr. Forbes made a motion to recommend to the BOS that they grant temporary approval for the use of the smoker oven and shed (for the 10/13/2019 Wine Festival under that existing event permit), as currently constructed, pending a final recommendation at the 10/22/19 HC meeting. This motion was made after considerable discussion and based on the following reasons: (1) the applicant has received approval from the Chester County Board of Health for the smoker oven; and (2) the applicant sent neighbor notifications, but only 7 days ahead of the HC meeting per the HC guidelines given to him by the office staff -- however, the application requires 14 days lead time for notifications. Motioned seconded by Mr. Bedwell and passed unanimously.

Mr. Bedwell noted that the final recommendation for the shed is being continued until the October meeting in order to see if any additional neighbors have issue after they receive their letters.

New Business

Mr. Forbes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56pm. Seconded by Ms. Fleming and voted unanimously. The next meeting will be October 22, 2019 at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Boorse
HC Secretary