

**Historical Commission of Birmingham Township
Minutes of the meeting of October 22, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Birmingham Township Historical Committee was called to order by Chairperson, Mike Forbes at **7:23pm** in the township building.

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

ABSENT: Matt Bedwell, Jeff Janofsky

Others present: Brad Webb, Bob Rafetto, Dan Hill

Mr. Forbes made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 24, 2019 meeting. Ms. Fleming seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

The applicant updated the committee on the letters that were returned unclaimed and the two additional green cards that he has received since the last meeting. In light of the fact that the additional time has been allowed, there are still no neighbors in attendance.

Mr. Forbes asked the applicant if they are aware of what transpired at the BOS meeting. The applicant indicated that they did not attend the meeting to state their case and believed their case is still pending before the BOS. Mr. Forbes stated that he was at the BOS meeting for a completely unrelated item, and that the BOS denied the application based upon the HARB feedback being a split decision.

Mr. Webb asked if the township normally sends a letter informing applicants of next steps within the process? He states they did not receive any feedback from either HARB, the HC or the township indicating what they could do to help render a positive outcome to their application.

Mr. Forbes, due to the fact that there are no additional neighbor inquiries at this meeting, made a motion to recommend that the BOS accept the applicant's proposal for a temporary shed to cover the outdoor oven at the Inn Keeper's Kitchen as it does not negatively impact the Historic Resource. Motion seconded by Ms. Fleming. Motion passed unanimously.

Update on Birmingham Hill Master Plan Study

Mr. Forbes has been invited to participate on the steering committee/oversight board for the Brandywine Conservancy's master plan study for Birmingham Hill. This is totally separate from the Vision Partnership Plan and the Battlefield Signage project. The first meeting is next Tuesday (October 29, 2019) after which he will be able to provide a more extensive update.

Update on Battlefield Signage Project

Ms. Fleming stated that nothing has changed since her last conversation with Karen Marshall (in August) as Ms. Marshall wants to make sure that signage is not duplicated. Mr. Randall Spackman has offered to have the Heritage Center located at Thornbury Farm, which is in very close proximity to Birmingham Hill and thus the reason for not moving forward with the sign that Kelly already has ready to go at Birmingham Hill with the current grant money. Ms. Fleming will make sure that we don't lose the grant money.

Vision Partnership Program Updates

Nothing this month as Jeff is not here this month.

New Business

Mr. Forbes discussed the 7 vs 14-day notification issue from last month. His understanding is that the 14-day notification recommendation was something that the HC wanted to see changed when the proposed HC ordinance was presented to the BOS (thus the reason that the checklist that Kim Venzie created had the 14-day verbiage included). However, the ordinance has not been adopted, thus the 7-day notification is still in place at this time. In fact, the actual ordinance does not give any specific timeframe - it simply states that neighbor notification must be provided. At this point, the HC will just wait until the BOS provides feedback for the proposed ordinance and the HC is cognizant of the fact that the guidelines provided to applicants state a 7-day neighbor notification is required.

Mr. Forbes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49pm. Seconded by Ms. Fleming and voted unanimously. The next meeting will be November 26, 2019 at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Boorse
HC Secretary