

Historical Commission of Birmingham Township
Minutes of the meeting of May 25, 2021

The regular meeting of the Birmingham Township Historical Committee was called to order by Chairperson, Mike Forbes at **7:19pm** in the township building.

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

ABSENT: Matt Bedwell

Others present: Dan Hill

Mr. Forbes made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 27, 2021 meeting. Ms. Fleming seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dilworthtown Heritage Center Update

Mr. Forbes distributed a sketch of the proposed Heritage Center at Historic Dilworthtown via email earlier today for the members to review and comment on. The battle heritage center will be at Thornbury Farm and will focus on troop movements and such. Therefore, the Heritage Center at Dilworthtown will focus on Washington's retreat and the tactical retreat of Stevenson's forces and ultimately the engagement that takes place beyond the 1704 House on Oakland Road. There are dotted lines on the sketch plan indicating where proposed trails may be located to connect the various historical sites within the area. These trails will be located along the roads – but not on the roads.

The new owners of the Dilworthtown Inn are willing to provide the building to the township rent-free. They are also willing to assist in making sure that the building is adapted to hold the Heritage Center. However, they are not willing to assist in the staffing of it or take the responsibility for opening and closing the building during the staffed hours.

Ms. Kelly asked for clarification on the location of the building and also if it will need work done before it can be used. Mr. Forbes indicated that it is clearly not ADA compliant. Ms. Fleming stated that grant money could be secured for these items. This is going to be a discussion point that will have to evolve as this project moves forward. Mr. Ponticello stated that the Marshallton Heritage Center is not fully staffed but that the Marshallton Inn employees do open and close the building each day – then people can simply help themselves to the pamphlets and information that are inside the building. Mr. Forbes is planning to reach out to the Brandywine Battlefield and the West Bradford Township Historic Commission (Marshallton Heritage Center) about staffing logistics.

Mr. Forbes recently attended the second zoom meeting with Kathleen McCaig from the Conservancy. He indicated that there were 40 plus people on that call, so clearly some people are interested in this concept and perhaps this would be a good source to find volunteers. He just wanted to make sure that the rest of the committee was brainstorming ideas for this also.

New Business

Ms. Fleming asked if any follow-up has occurred with Anne Siemer about the website links that she was hoping that the HC could start handling since there is more historic expertise on this committee than on the RPOS. Mr. Forbes said he has not heard from her since the meeting she attended. He will reach out to her and see if she has specific web links she needs the HC to fix.

Mr. Forbes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48pm. Seconded by Ms. Fleming and voted unanimously. The next meeting will be June 22, 2021 at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Boorse
HC Secretary