

**Historical Commission of Birmingham Township  
Minutes of the meeting of June 28, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Birmingham Township Historical Committee was called to order by the Chairperson, Mike Forbes at **7:05pm** in the township building.

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

ABSENT: Matt Bedwell, Dan Hill

Others present: Christina Carter, Rich Landau and Kate Jacoby, Glenn Clark

Ms. Fleming made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 24, 2022 meeting. Mr. Ponticello seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Review Application for renovation of 1388 Old Wilmington Pike, (HR#30)**

Ms. Carter, of John Milner Architects, and the tenants are in attendance tonight to present the application. They provided proof of the required neighbor notification that was sent out to properties within 500 feet of the Historic Resource. They sent out 19 letters and have received 6 returned cards. There are two neighbors in attendance this evening just to hear what the plans are for the building.

Ms. Carter noted this renovation is primarily an interior renovation as can be seen by the plans and the application. The two exterior changes are the new sign (Ground Provisions) that will replace the existing sign and the replacement of the fan located on the back of the building. Mr. Forbes asked for the dimensions of the new fan as opposed to the existing one. The applicant noted that the existing fan is a glorified residential fan and since they are installing a commercial kitchen, they need a commercial fan. The existing fan is 17x23 and the new fan will be 32x24. It will be the same material (aluminum) as the existing fan.

The major renovation is interior. The existing kitchen is really a demonstration kitchen and not a commercial kitchen as required by the county health department for health inspection purposes. They will also be changing out the existing tile with new tile and replacing the existing bar with a new smaller bar.

Mr. Forbes answered the questions on the required Form during the meeting.

Mr. Forbes made a motion to recommend that the BOS approve the application submitted for renovation of the property located at 1388 Old Wilmington Pike, Historic Resource #30. The applicant agreed to provide the exact specifications of the new fan with the final submission. Seconded by Ms. Kelly and approved unanimously.

**Review Application for Patio and Outbuilding roof of 1045 Birmingham Rd. (HR#11)**

Mr. Clark is in attendance this evening to present their application. They provided proof of the required neighbor notification sent out to the properties within 500 feet of the Historic Resource. They sent 29 letters out and have received 24 cards back.

They are planning to build a new patio at the back of the second story of their garage (which is built like a bank barn). They attended the HARB meeting last week and have incorporated two recommendations

made at that meeting (1) to angle the sides of the fireplace to be built along the edge of the patio, and (2) to put the slates on a slight slope in order to allow for water run-off. There is an existing flagstone patio that will be removed to allow for this new patio and fireplace.

They are also planning to replace the existing shingle roof on the old smokehouse. They will be replacing the existing one with 26-gauge standing seam steel and it will match the black roof on the house.

Mr. Forbes asked if Mr. Clark knows the age of the smokehouse. He would guess that it was built around 1860.

Mr. Forbes answered the questions on the required form during the meeting.

Mr. Forbes made a motion to recommend that the BOS approve the requested changes in the application for 1045 Birmingham Road (HR#11). The new patio should include the modifications and suggestions from the HARB meeting. The new roof on the smokehouse will be more in line with the other Historic structures on the property. Seconded by Ms. Fleming and approved unanimously.

#### **Review feedback at the last Board of Supervisor's Meeting regarding Historic Preservation Ordinance and Next Steps**

Mr. Forbes wanted to briefly discuss the outcome of the June BOS meeting regarding the Ordinance. The Board of Supervisors will be revisiting the Ordinance with the feedback they have received from the Chester County Planning Commission, the Historical Commission and the residents. They will provide the new version of the Ordinance for additional feedback.

#### **Brandywine Battlefield Heritage Interpretation & Connectivity Plan Next Steps**

Mr. Forbes stated that Ms. Spears has approved on behalf of the Chester County Planning Commission the plan submission that was completed by the Brandywine Conservancy on behalf of the task force. She has forwarded that on to each of the other townships that participated in the project. One response has been received thus far approving it. Once all of the responses back, then it will go the Birmingham Township Board of Supervisors for final approval. This will then trigger the distribution of the grant monies.

#### **New Business**

Ms. Fleming provided an update on the infamous sign. She emailed the proof of the wording to the Historical Commission members for review. She has the quote from the company to make sign and ship it. The shipping cost is changing daily and is very expensive. Ms. Fleming is considering contacting them to see if it would be less expensive if they were to ship all the signs to one township within Chester County and then just have them picked up from that township to be installed at their respective locations.

Each township received a \$3000 grant for the sign and now with the expensive shipping costs the invoices are coming in approximately \$325 over the grant per township. If the combined shipping can save all the townships money, it might be worth it. However, if not, Ms. Fleming will request to be on the Board of Supervisors agenda to inform them of the potential overage.

Ms. Fleming also provide Mr. Forbes with a number of awards that were presented to the Birmingham Township Historical Commission at a dinner she attended on behalf of the Commission last week.

Ms. Fleming also noted that at the dinner, some of the townships mentioned that they use high school and college interns to enter some of the historical information into databases. This is something we should consider in the future.

Mr. Forbes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03pm. Seconded by Mr. Ponticello and voted unanimously. The next meeting will be July 26, 2022 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Boorse  
HC Secretary