

**Historical Commission of Birmingham Township
Minutes of the meeting of October 25, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Birmingham Township Historical Committee was called to order by the Chairperson, Mike Forbes at **7:14pm** in the township building.

PRESENT: HC Members: Kelly Fleming, Mike Forbes, John Ponticello, Pat Kelly (via phone)

ABSENT: Matt Bedwell

Others present:

Mr. Forbes made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 27, 2022 meeting. Ms. Fleming seconded the motion and it passed with one abstention from Mr. Ponticello as he wasn't present in September.

Review Next Steps for BBHIP

Mr. Forbes asked Ms. Fleming if she has received any correspondence from Jeanne Speirs. Due to no information from her as to the status of the approval letters from the various partnering townships/municipalities, the Historical Commission cannot move forward with payment to the Brandywine Conservancy.

Update on Status of Installation of the Birmingham Hill Sign

Ms. Fleming has the actual sign at her house. This past weekend, she staked out the location for the sign at Birmingham Hill. The intention is to position the sign parallel to the road instead of perpendicular to the road (opposite of the way all the other similar signs are posted); this is to encourage people to park at Birmingham Hill and walk over to read the sign rather than pull off the side of Birmingham Road to read it.

Discussion ensued about the locations of the signs that the other municipalities are installing as part of this project.

Ms. Fleming is going to call Tom Nelling to schedule the sign installation in the next week or two. Once it is installed Mr. Forbes thinks the township should hold a dedication ceremony. He noted that there is a dedication ceremony upcoming for the new sign at the 1704 house. The Thornbury sign was already dedicated.

Plans for 2023

Mr. Forbes wants to discuss ideas for how the HC can be more involved in helping homeowners within the township who own historic homes. This idea originally came up during the review of the proposed Historic Resource Ordinance. He would like to have a catalog of resources that homeowners can access for grants, educational information for ways to research the historic records for their properties, prior deeds/documents, etc. He noted that there are other Historic Commissions in other municipalities that offer these types of resources.

When the Brandywine Battlefield Historic Interpretation Plan moves forward and opens the Interpretation information center in Dilworthtown, it would be good to already have some of the

background information researched and documented. Ms. Kelly asked if the HC can apply for a grant to help set up the educational piece of this? Mr. Forbes stated that he does not know the answer to this question.

Mr. Forbes wants everyone to think about ideas to discuss at the November meeting. Then the ideas can be narrowed down to three or four that can be divvied up between the HC members to gather additional information.

New Business

Mr. Forbes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46pm. Seconded by Mr. Ponticello and voted unanimously. The next meeting will be November 22, 2022 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Boorse
HC Secretary