



West Vincent Township Historical Commission  
Meeting Minutes for November 08, 2023

**Commission members in attendance:** Bob Wise, Chair, Kate Farnham, Vice Chair, Peter Benton (via phone); **absent:** Thomaseth Dulchinos, Secretary, Karl Brachwitz.

**Township Supervisors in attendance:** Bernie Couris

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order 7:09 pm

**Approval of minutes:** Approval of 9/13/23 minute; Mr. Benton made motion to approve, Ms. Farnham seconded, motion passed unanimously.

**Applications:** No applications

**Old Business:**

1. **Opalanie Park:** Fall Fest was successful, HRC volunteers hosted able since HC members could not attend. Draft interpretive panels were displayed. HC thanked Cindy Clark (in attendance) and HRC volunteers. Interpretive sign panels were discussed with Mr. Benton stating this was the last chance for comments; HRC members have reviewed the signs. Mr. Wise visited park to suggest sign locations: he suggested placing the two-paneled Lenape sign at parking/welcome area, and the other two-paneled signs at two locations on opposite sides of the track. Mr. Benton made motion for the HC to suggest locating the Lenape sign at the parking/welcome area, locating one sign on the St. Matthews side of the track, and locating one sign on the opposite side of the track near the road/trail that leads to the former silos. Due to the bird waste issue, the HC recommended vertical signs. Ms. Farnham seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
2. **Threatened Properties:** None discussed, but continuing the HC's discussion of the demolition-by-neglect process in the township, and specifically notification, Mr. Wise reached out to ZO (Tracy Franey) regarding form letter that she sends to property owners experiencing demo-by-neglect on their properties. Mr. Wise will obtain a copy and send to HC members for review and comment.
3. **Township Barn:** Mr. Wise discussed with township manager Jacqui Guenther who had no updates. Mr. Couris said the township is looking to move the police station to Ludwigs Fire Company property. No update on the barn. The proposed cell tower will be discussed at next BoS meeting: Supervisors are considering a monopole (not a faux silo), located at west end of barn. Mr. Wise requested that language to protect the barn during construction should be inserted into any agreement. Mr. Couris asked about preserving the barn and recommended that the HC keep the barn on the agenda. Mr. Benton recommended Mr. Wise send Mr. Couris the structural report done by structural engineer Rick Ortega.



4. **Birchrun Road Bridge:** Mr. Wise stated he has been named a Consulting Party on behalf of the HC, in the Section 106 process, and that he reached out to Monica Harrower, Cultural Resource person from PennDOT District 6. Mr. Benton suggested HC also contact PA SHPO to keep ahead of the process: Mr. Wise to contact Barbara Frederick and Emma Diehl, Ms. Farnham to contact Andrea Mac Donald.
5. **Ordinance Updates:** Mr. Wise has begun the review.
6. **HRC Report:** Ms. Clark reports that HRC is creating articles for township newsletter, called “Back in the Day in West Vincent.” HRC also created a driving map showing historic resources along St Matthews Road (handed out at Fall Fest). HRC continues working with E Vincent Twp on Frederick Sheeder and is collaborating on a map. Re HRC public presentations, it would like to do another presentation in 2024, Mr. Wise offered to do a Camp Meetings/Chautauquas presentation he did for Tredyffrin Historic Preservation Trust earlier this year. Possible date: April, 2024. Ms. Clark also noted a property of interest that Ms. Travaylini (not present) is concerned about: 1214 Pottstown Pike, the Jesse Jones House and Barn (Ludwig’s Hardware property). Mansard roofed house there in deteriorating condition.
7. **Budget:** Proposed Budget under review by township.
8. **Committee/Commission Liaison Reports:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Business from Floor:** None.

**Adjournment:** Motion to end meeting made by Mr. Wise; Ms. Farnham seconds. Meeting ends at 8:27pm.

Meeting notes taken by Ms. Farnham; meeting notes drafted for these minutes by Mr. Wise and respectfully submitted to HC on November 29, 2023.

