



West Vincent Township Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2023

Commission members in attendance: Bob Wise, Chair, Kate Farnham, Vice Chair, Peter Benton; Karl Brachwitz **Absent:** Thomaseth Dulchinos, Secretary

Township Supervisors in attendance: Bernie Couris

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order 7:04 pm
2. **Approval of minutes:** Approval of 11/8/23 minutes; Ms. Farnham made motion to approve, Mr. Benton seconded, motion passed unanimously.
3. **Applications:** There were no building permit applications for review this month
4. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Opalanie Park:** Draft interpretive exhibits were prepared for the Fall Fest in October based on the interpretive information prepared for the Historical Commission. Supervisor Dana Alan led the work. We are not sure what the next steps might be for full production and implementation. Mr. Benton will reach out to Ms. Alan to see if next steps have been determined.
 - b. **Threatened Properties:** No properties are currently considered under threat. Mr. Wise noted that the general process for reaching out to the property owners of threatened properties needs to be reviewed and confirmed. He drew attention to the communications and process followed with Natural Lands for the property on Miller Road, which was friendly and professional and turned out well. Mr. Wise will continue to pursue the topic.
 - c. **Township Barn:** Mr. Couris noted that further discussion on the status and work related to the Township Barn is on hold pending resolution of the Township budget and a potential DCNR grant. Location of the proposed cell tower has been changed to the far side of the public works shed rather than adjacent to the barn. A possible date for installation of the cell tower has not yet been determined. The Historical Commission will continue to monitor and assist in discussions relative to the barn.
 - d. **Birchrun Road Bridge:** Mr. Wise noted that he received a letter from PennDOT on his role as a Consulting Party on behalf of the Historical Commission. Mr. Wise contacted West Pikeland Township regarding their experience on their bridge on Art School Road. They stated that their process is much further along, and they had no advice on influencing the process at



our earlier stage in the process. Mr. Wise and Ms. Farnham will contact staff at the PA SHPO to see if they have advice on how and to what extent the Township can influence design given the bridge's location within the Birchrunville National Register Historic District.

- e. **Ordinance Updates:** Mr. Wise is continuing his review of Article XXV, Historic Preservation Overlay District. Seth Hinshaw is completing his work on revisions to the Historic Site Inventory.
- f. **Budget:** Mr. Wise submitted a proposed budget for the Historical Commission to the Township for consideration. Mr. Couris noted that the budget will be approved..
- g. **HRC Report:** Mr. Wise reported that Ms. Clark was unable to attend the meeting tonight but provided a list of HRC activities to him which he forwarded to Historical Commission members in an email earlier today. They include: (a) The HRC submitted an article to the Township newsletter recommending placement of a veteran's marker on Frederick Sheeder's gravesite. (b) A date in April is under consideration for a presentation on Camp Meetings by Mr. Wise. (c) The HRC is interested in collaborating in activities commemorating the nation's 250th anniversary being led by Chester County. The HRC asks what activities the Historical Commission might propose. (d) The HRC submitted a proposed budget of \$500/yr to the Township for approval.

5. **Committee/Commission Liaison Reports:** None.

6. **New Business:** None.

7. **Business from Floor:** Susan Amrich, Township resident, introduced herself and represents the Chester County Historic Preservation Network is its relationships with the Historical Commission. Ms. Amrich noted that the Network held a Fall Workshop on the Chester County 250th commemoration and will hold a Spring Workshop on March 23rd to further discuss ideas for participation of municipalities in the 250th. The Historical Commission should consider such participation.

8. **Adjournment:** Motion to end meeting made by Mr. Brachwitz; Mr. Benton seconds. The meeting ended at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter C. Benton
2-8-24

