



## West Vincent Township Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes for January 14, 2026

*(approved February 11, 2026)*

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Kate Farnham, Peter Benton, Bob Wise

**Township Supervisors in Attendance:** Dana Alan

**Historic Resources Committee Members in Attendance:** Cindy Clark (Township Historian), Isabelle Travaglini (Township Historian Emeritus)

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 7:11 pm by Kate Farnham

**2026 Reorganization:** Motion by Peter Benton to re-elect Kate Farnham as Chair, Suzanne Bender as Vice Chair, and elect Stephen Foley as Secretary. Motion seconded by Mr. Wise and slate passed unanimously.

### Approval of Minutes:

- A. December 10, 2025 Minutes prepared by Stephen Foley: Motion for Approval by Peter Benton, Kate Farnham seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

### Applications:

- A. Bennett / Toll Mid-Atlantic, 2452 S. Chester Springs Road: The applicant was not in attendance, however the Historical Commission discussed the application. Commissioners expressed approval of Kate Farnham's letter (previously reviewed by Commission members) that will go to the township manager addressing various concerns of the application plan. Peter Benton suggested adding an additional vegetative buffer with native plants along South Chester Springs Road. Dana Alan recommended discussing vegetation with EAC, as well as providing public access to trails. Cindy Clark discussed attending the Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, January 22. Other suggestions were leaving the existing road through the property in place, that the several historic properties within 500 feet of the subject property need to be part of the Historic Resource Impact Study, and retaining the old road from Route 401 as a public trail with access off 401 (suggestion Cindy Clark). Jeff Butler from the Planning Commission brought up issues regarding the previous plan recording (Larking Hill) and how that could impact the plan. Finally, Isabelle Travaglini discussed the historic importance of some of the owners and their historic businesses. Peter Benton motioned to send letter with modifications discussed in meeting; Bob Wise seconded and motion passed unanimously.

### Old Business

- A. Birchrund Rd. Bridge Replacement: Kate Farnham and Bob Wise were notified of a non-public meeting to be held on Zoom on January 27, 2026 to discuss the project with the consultant, PennDot and consulting parties. Kate Farnham will attend meeting. Cindy Clark expressed concern that if one of the five bridges in the Birchrundville Historic District (and village) is widened, then eventually all of them will be widened, adversely affecting the village. Bob Wise expressed waiting to hear back from a bridge engineer regarding the possibility of using Federal Highway funds to rebuild a bridge as a one lane bridge.
- B. Ordinance Revisions: Inventory (update): Bob Wise and Cindy Clark are finalizing the inventory in preparation for the February 16, 2026 Board of Supervisor Workshop where Bob Wise will present the revised inventory. The Commissioners also discussed the township



zoning officer providing a list of building applications to the Historical Commission to ensure no historic properties are missed in the township review process.

- C. 1245 Schoolhouse Lane (update): Peter Benton discussed the Liptons' (owners) recent trial at the Chester County Courthouse where the jury found the Liptons' contractor responsible for the unplanned collapse of the historic barn. Peter Benton testified at the trial; Bob Wise attended.
- D. Website: Not discussed

**New Business:**

- A. Isabelle Travaglini discussed the ongoing discussions with Kutztown University Department of Geology conducting Ground Penetrating Radar at Vincent Baptist Church burial ground.

**Reports:**

- A. Committee Liaisons KF: PC; PB: OSC, HRC; SB: ZHB; RW: BoS, EAC - No Reports
- B. Township Historian Report: Cindy Clark discussed that there is now a dedicated desk set up in the township conference room for township historic resource activities. The Historic Resources Committee is no more, it is now a department.

**Business from Floor:** None (aside from Jeff Butler's input, as discussed)

**Adjournment:** The meeting ended at 9:25 pm upon motion by Peter Benton and seconded by Bob Wise. All HC members approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Wise

