West Vincent Township Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes for September 9, 2026 (Approved 10/14/2026)

Commission Members in Attendance: Kate Farnham, Suzanne Bender, Stephen Foley, Bob Wise

Township Supervisors in Attendance: Dana Alan

Township Historians in Attendance: Cindy Clark (Township Historian), Isabelle Travaglini (Township Historian Emeritus)

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:03pm by Kate Farnham

Approval of Minutes:

July 8, 2026 Minutes prepared by Stephen Foley: Motion for Approval by Kate Farnham, Suzanne Bender seconds. Motion carries unanimously. Bob Wise abstains.

Applications:

A. Bennett / Toll Mid-Atlantic
    a. Debrief on what the WVHC could have done better/lessons learned for next development application. In future, HC should act sooner in responding to application and providing comment; create a subcommittee to focus on and coordinate our response; communicate directly with applicants /require applicants to appear in person at HC meetings to present and discuss all studies and reports; and require applicants to add us as a project contact to PA-Share if they are consulting with the PA State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO).
    b. Kate Farnham is to ask Tommy to follow up again with the PA SHPO on memo/communication sent May 8, 2026, since no responses received to date.
    c. HC would like to request aerial/drone and exterior/interior photography of the subject farmstead and all of the existing structures prior to construction.
B. ZHB application - 1644 Kimberton Rd. (additional dwelling unit) - ZHB hearing is scheduled on 9/10 at 7pm. Kate Farnham and Township Historians to attend.
    a. Debbie Harding, resident of WVT, questions the reason behind our concern of the addition of a second living structure.
    b. WVHC to draft a letter stating their concerns regarding the demolition of the existing historic structure, historic impact study & continual care of the property, and provide to the BoS/township manager to convey to appropriate counsel for the ZHB hearing.
C. 2154 Miller Rd. pool house (informal discussion of plans; no permit application has been submitted yet)
    a. Commissioners recommend they square off chimney

b. Commissioners supportive of plans otherwise

Old Business

A. Birchrun Rd. Bridge Replacement:
   a. follow-up correspondence w/PennDOT; PennDOT will not budge on requiring 2-lane design. Commissioners are to consider how to generate public support for opposing 2-lane design (petition, request our own traffic study, publicity, work with Katie Muth's office).

B. Ordinance Revisions: Inventory update:
   a. next steps; property on S. Chester Springs Rd., have a map made.
   b. Recommendation to approve draft inventory & memo dated 9.9.26 to advance inventory accepted by the township., Kate Farnham makes a motion to approve Suzanne Bender seconds, all approved.

C. Joint interpretive initiative with East Coventry Township
   a. Not discussed due to time constraints

D. Continue discussion of HC procedures and making process clearer
   a. Not discussed due to time constraints

E. Newsletter articles
   a. Not discussed due to time constraints

New Business

A. Budget for 2027 - $2,500 granted

B. Fall Fest planning / expenditures – In lieu of a historic presentation, Township Historians and Parks and Rec propose an activity for children with prizes consisting of historic toys and attached information to be prepared by Historians. They request a $400 allocation from the WVTHC budget for purchasing toys. Bob Wise made a motion to approve allocation of $400 from the WVTHC budget for purchase of toys. Kate Farnham seconded, and motion was approved unanimously.

C. Kate Farnham stated that PA SHPO is presenting PA Archaeology Month virtual Learn at Lunchtime Series. One presentation of local interest is the Paoli Battlefield Presentation on 10/30/26 12:15pm. Registration is on PA SHPO website.

Reports

A. Committee Liaisons KF: PC; PB: OSC, HRC; SB: ZHB; RW: BoS, SF: EAC.

B. Township Historian Report – Vincent Baptist Cemetery investigations. Historians had a meeting with Marc Duey (property owner) to review report from the ground penetrating radar survey. The survey found 25 anomalies, but no clear indication of a large mass grave. Cindy Clark is to send the report to commission members.

Business from the Floor

A. No business from the floor.

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 9:24 pm upon motion by Kate Farnham and seconded by Bob Wise. All HC members approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Foley