

West Vincent Township  
Environmental Advisory Council  
Minutes- June 7, 2017

Attending: Don Cook; Jim Deisinger; Jane helm; Vic Laubach; Poeter Ouwerkerk; Suzanne Roth; Harriet Stone.

Also attending: Carol Armstrong; Erica Batdorf; David Brown; Brian Curry; Sara Shick; Ed Theurkauf; David Vincent.

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 P.M.

The minutes were approved as corrected.

1<sup>st</sup>: Harriet Stone; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jane Helm

All approved

**Board of Supervisors (BOS)** – continue t work with Natural Lands Trust (NLT). NLT will settle with the Dietrick family at end June and West Vincent Township (WVT) will settle on their 72 acre parcel afterwards, possibly September. A small group walked the Fox Hollow trail on June 6. The road crew will be able to clear it with hand tools. The stakes need to be seen clearly. The taller boundary poles will be lowered afterwards and marked with the WVT trails logo. Ed Theurkauf suggested review and inspection of such trails prior to building is best.

**Northern Federation** – the next meeting is on Tuesday, June 13 at East Coventry township with Carol de Wolf & WVT Sustainabilty Committee reporting.

**Regional Planning** – has a Community Value Survey they want all to complete. They will hold a public workshop on June 22 at the Kimberton Fire Company.

**Sustainability Committee** - is planning their Fair for October at the WVT elementary school.

**Park and Recreation** – Bill Holderness is promising a list of all public trails in the township. Working on Cook's Glen. See above BOS report on Fox Hollow.

**Planning Commission** – No meeting.

**Open Space** – it was decided to set aside monies for maintenance of properties. Jeff Goldberg of Weatherstone has been appointed to their board. Bill Dietrick continues as their secretary.

**Ad hoc Zoning Ordinance Changes**

- Waiting to hear from Rick Trailes; his comments/review will be sent prior to the June 20 meeting of the ad-hoc committee. Vic met with Erica last week to talk about NLT's suggestions for zoning changes.

- Ed Theurkauf can work on this too and we can pay for his work. Tree protection sub-committee: Jane Helm, Vic Laubach, Sara Shick.

**Old Business:**

**Establishing priorities/goals- Forest protections, heritage/significant trees protections.** See above Ad hoc committee report.

**Historic Resources Committee (HRC)**– The committee could have 2 arms: research & regulations/advocacy. No action was made.

The HRC meeting time is not in sync with getting quick recommendations to the EAC. The EAC suggested that the HRC meeting be moved to the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. Tom Wargo, zoning officer, suggested a process for expediting comments when the owner of a property identifies as an historic resource is applying for a building permit. Tom has our HID numbers in the township records so historic status is easily found. He would like to be able to send us an item for review and comment and to have our response about the effect of proposed changes within a week (five business days). At the May 8 meeting, we reviewed Tom’s process and created a quick-response team to answer this challenge. The team consists of our professional historic preservationists (Peter Benton, Kate Farnham, Bob Wise), historians (Isabelle Travaglini, Barb Quinter, Karen Oncay) and communicators (contact points for the office staff) (Sara Shick, Harriet Stone). The process will alert others to the need for a rapid review.

Jane Helm presented an outline of recommendations to the council.

Sara Shick said that at the May meeting, she and Peter Benton agreed to work together to look at other townships ordinances. Jane asked to be included in that work.

In response to concerns about coordination between the EAC and the HRC, a joint meeting was suggested. Erica will coordinate the meeting.

**Subdivisions/Land Development/Historic Building:**

Zoning variance (Pine Creek) at Rt. 401 & Chester Springs Road to build a 2500 sq. ft. accessory building within the riparian buffer.

**MOTION: The EAC will send a memo to the Zoning Hearing Board voicing its opposition to further encroaching on the riparian buffer of Pine Creek.**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Jane Helm; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Harriet Stone**

**All approved**

Kling proposal to subdivide his 90 acre property at Birchrun Road, Hilltop Road and Shady Lane with his existing house and accessories as one large parcel and the remainder into 10 acre parcels. An email letter was received from neighbors, Rob Kushner & Denise Kim-Kushner, stating that they had not been included as abutting

this property and were not notified of the proposal, They requested that the Planning Commission reschedule their meeting.

Discussion- Where are driveways for lots, 1,2, & 3? Greenway is on individual lots.

We would like to see conservation easements placed and greenway protection.

Perhaps the solution is dedicated Open Space.

**MOTION: Please send memo on recommendations to the Planning Commission about our concerns about protection of greenways and access to lots 1,2, &3.**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Don Cook; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jane Helm**

**All approved**

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 P.M.

1<sup>st</sup>: Jane Helm; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Don Cook.