

**WEST VINCENT TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

**November 11, 2019
7:00 PM**

Attendance: Jim Helm, Chair; Peter Benton, Vice-Chair; Kate Farnham, Secretary; Thomaseth Dulchinos; and Township Manager Erica Batdorf. Bob Wise absent.

Mr. Helm called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

CORRESPONDENCE/MINUTES

Approval of September Minutes

The minutes from the September 9th Historical Commission meeting were reviewed. One change was noted: removal of the clause “and Mr. Helm and Mr. Benton are in discussion with the Solicitor now’ from the third paragraph under Business from the Floor.

MOTION by Mr. Benton to approve the minutes as corrected; second by Ms. Farnham. ***Motion carries unanimously.***

Approval of October Minutes

The minutes from the October 14th Historical Commission meeting were reviewed.

MOTION by Mr. Benton to approve the minutes as presented; second by Ms. Dulchinos. ***Motion carries unanimously.***

NEW BUSINESS:

1417 Birchrun Road (Tax Parcel 23-3-108)

Architectural drawings for work being undertaken on the historic house were reviewed and discussed. Windows in the wood framed addition will match the existing doublehung windows in the stone portion, which will be retained. Sierra Pacific windows will be used – wood with aluminum exterior cladding and true divided lites. The drawings show three windows at the second floor, front elevation, however the locations of the two existing windows will be retained instead. Siding will be prefinished LP Smartside, 6” reveal, with 4” trim boards. The existing fireplace in the stone portion of the house will remain.

MOTION by Mr. Benton to recommend approval of the drawings to the Zoning Officer with corrections to the windows as noted; second by Ms. Farnham. ***Motion carries unanimously.***

NEW BUSINESS:

2806 Conestoga Road (Tax Parcel 25-6-67)

The demolition permit submitted for the vacant historic house and garage was reviewed. Matthew Spellman of ARRO Consulting, Inc. inspected the buildings on behalf of the Township and submitted a report by email noting their poor condition and recommending their demolition. Mr. Benton and Ms. Farnham recommended that the proposed demolition be permitted but that limited documentation be required. The documentation should consist of additional photographs once the leaves are down along with simple line drawings of the floor plan of the house.

MOTION by Mr. Benton to permit issuance of the demolition permit following submission of additional drawings and photographic documentation as noted by the owner; second by Ms. Dulchinos. *Motion carries unanimously.*

352 Black Horse Road (Tax Parcel 25-6-83)

The applicant requested a waiver for preparation of a Historic Resource Impact Study for the proposed three-lot subdivision as required by Article XXIV of the Zoning Ordinance and discussed by the Historical Commission at the September 9th meeting. The request for waiver was approved by the Planning Commission without input from the Historical Commission and will next be considered by the Board of Supervisors.

Historical Commission members expressed opinions that a limited Impact Study should be prepared and that the proposed contents of the study should be described. Mr. Helm will appear before the Board of Supervisors to present the Historical Commission's recommendation. Mr. Benton will prepare a brief overview of the reasons for preparation of an Impact Study, suggested study contents, and cost.

MOTION by Ms. Farnham to recommend preparation of a limited Impact Study for the property to the Board of Supervisors as noted; second by Mr. Benton. *Motion carries unanimously.*

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Veterans' Memorial and Markers

Isabelle Traveglini noted the desire that a veterans' memorial be installed on a Township property in remembrance of Township residents who served as veterans from all of the nation's wars. There was general agreement that a discussion on the topic be undertaken in conjunction with the Township Parks Commission, EAC, and others.

Ms. Traveglini also noted that she is obtaining metal veterans' markers from the Veterans Administration to be installed in cemeteries throughout the Township. She will be calling for volunteers to install the markers with flags before Memorial Day.

Jane Helm noted that she and others are currently working on a survey of the St. Matthews Church cemetery. No plot map exists.

Natural Lands Bryn Coed Preserve

Jane Helm noted that the foundation of the historic outbuilding at the Natural Lands does not appear to have been preserved. Demolition of the outbuilding was approved on condition that the foundation be preserved. Ms. Batdorf stated the Township will look into it. Ms. Farnham noted

that the stone ruins of the spring house are also to be stabilized and that a grave marker at the site is to be preserved.

Documentation of the Bryn Coed Cow Palace

Ms. Farnham asked whether the Township is satisfied with the documentation of the Cow Palace at the new Township park pending its demolition. She noted that the documentation did not include a historical overview. Ms. Batdorf stated that the Township is satisfied with it. Mr. Benton noted that a historical overview was not included to keep the cost minimal in order to get the physical documentation of the building approved; the historical overview can be prepared at a later date.

Threatened Buildings

Mr. Benton asked that an update be given on the threats to three barns within the Township with holes in their roofs.

Historical Commission Website

Ms. Farnham noted that the Historical Commission needs to discuss how to populate the Historical Commission's website page with content and links.

Design Review Appeal

Ms. Batdorf reported that the Township solicitor is considering how the design review process outlined in Article XXIV should be amended to allow for appeal to the Board of Supervisors rather than as a variance to the Zoning Board.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION for adjournment was made by Mr. Benton; second by Ms. Farnham. *Motion carries unanimously.* Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

The next meeting will be held on December 9, 2019 at 7 PM at the Township Building.

Respectfully submitted by Peter Benton.