

West Vincent Township Historic Resources Committee

Approved Minutes August 8, 2016

In attendance: Isabelle Travaglini, Harriet Stone, Karen Oncay, Jane Helm, John Coine, Don Cook, Barb Quinter, Liz Albert, Yvonne Brownlee, Sara Shick. Meeting called to order at 6:36.

July Minutes: A motion by Yvonne and second by Don to approved July minutes as submitted carried.

West Pikeland's Trolley Tour, Karen and Isabelle will be finalizing the content of our handout and Sara will place photos Karen will provide and then make it available to HRC members and visitors at Tour who requested a copy.

Stream Naming (Isabelle Travaglini, Suzanne Roth, George Graham). Isabelle reported there is nothing new to report.

South of Conestoga Road (Jane and Jim Helm). Work continues. Jane drafted a letter from the HRC/WVT to home owners in that area indicting that the HRC would like to take photographs, inside and out, to document historic, perhaps unusual, features, such as fireplaces, stairways, trim, windows from the inside. The letter was discussed and was to go out later in the week.

Vincent Baptist Church Regarding Isabelle's recent visits with the owner and a member of his staff, we have concerns about the preservation of the 1902 Philips window. It has been removed and should be restored and put back where it came from. The owner proposes to place the window in a gazebo to be built in the cemetery. Besides concerns about the possible risk to the window being exposed like that, the HRC has serious concerns about removing the window from its historic context. Facing the road as it had, it is a key character-defining feature of the church. The HRC feels it should be returned to its original position or at a minimum be rebuilt and kept inside the church proper. Isabelle asked that we hold off on sending a letter to the owner until she has had more discussions with him.

Oral histories, HRC interviews, photography, and site visits (Yvonne, Meryl, Marcy, Isabelle, Jim H, Sara) lots of ideas and more volunteers; this project is in early days.

Clerical projects: Volunteers welcome!

- a. Finish putting historic class for each property in the binders (Kathleen Forrester, Harriet Stone, Liz Albert, John H, John C, Jane, others)
- b. Clarifying of details of historic assets in the Atlas, to get into WVT ZO and to ChesCo for GIS mapping of our resources, includes resolving questions about historic classification on some resources. (Isabelle Travaglini, Karen Oncay, Sara Shick, Harriet Stone)
- c. Digitizing the history files (Harriet Stone, others) It was suggested that the Historical Society might be able to help with this. Our sense is, it is not difficult, will just be time consuming and will need very careful attention to details.

Business from the assembled:

- Harriet has asked the Zoning Officer about the promised easement protecting the Brunner/Zaricniak farmstead.
- Jim Helm will draft content for thoiie marker to be placed at the Benner farm.
- Isabelle plans to ask Lisa Cremers about the possibility of digitizing 30,000 Acres.
- Sara passed around a notecard she had picked up at the July TTVW at Yellow Springs. Charlestown historians sell cards and photos to raise funds for special projects.
- Karen and Barb will be helping at the Upper Pickering Tour on the 18th of the month.
- Sara proposed that our 2018 participation in the Chester County TTVW be a trolley tour, using lessons learned from this summer, showcasing the history throughout our township.
- Isabelle had more information to share, this time a CCHPN due process document. Harriet will scan it and send it out.

Future research opportunities:

- Expand Highlands Historic District
- The Underground Railroad District in West Vincent Township
- French Creek corridor
- Ludwig's Corner and vicinity – the Conestoga story (Isabelle “going there” next)
- Churches
- Schools (Karen would like to prepare a booklet; Sara might help)
- Family graveyards
- Indian graveyards
- Bryn Coed Farm – Janney, Shaw, OJR (Karen, Barb)
- More photos of every historic resource (inside and out)
- And the list grows: Native American Study (Isabelle has begun researching), Booklets, stories, all the Ralston houses, The Corners, role of the Vincents (both townships) in the Revolutionary War, etc.

Next meeting – Monday, September 12, 2016, 6:30 pm