

# West Vincent Township Historic Resources Committee

## Minutes March 14, 2016, Approved

**In attendance:** Isabelle Travaglini, Jane and Jim Helm, John Coine, Charles Cantrell, Don Cook, Barb Quinter, Karen Oncay, Gwen Miller, Kathleen Forester, John Eldridge, Suzanne Roth, George Graham, Sara Shick

**February Minutes:** A motion by Don and second by Isabelle to dispense with the reading and approval of the February minutes, carried.

**Change of time for our meetings:** Motion by Isabelle and second by Kathleen to change meeting time to 6:30, perhaps as a trial, carried. Effective with April meeting.

April 1 program about **Underground Railroad (UGRR):**

- The practice session scheduled for Tuesday March 29, 2016 at 6:30
- For the program, set up will be after 3:00 April 10, 2016. There will be displays of the UGRR, other projects in the township, a handout of Lewis/Fussell family tree prepared by Barb.
- Suzanne, Gwen, and Jane will provide cookies; Harriet will get the rest of the refreshments/supplies.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Chester County Iron and Steel Industry 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary kick-off will be held March 16 at the Schuylkill River Heritage Bldg in Phoenixville.
- WVT Community Day, Saturday, May 7, 10:00 to 3:00. Karen and Isabelle again plan to have two tables, with lots of material on display and would love to have volunteers to help them greet people, inform them about the work of this wonderful committee, and tell stories of our history, and collect names and emails/other contact information from anyone interested in being a part of the HRC.
- July 14, 2016 is the date of the Yellow Springs event as part of Chester County's Town Talk and Village Walks focus on the Iron and Steel industry. They will be conducting trolley tours to be able to cover more ground than by walking. Tours will begin at 3:00 with the last trolley leaving at 7:00. Our very own Isabelle is providing the scripts for the portion of the tour that travels through WVT.

**The Pearl Griffith Barn:**

Last month there was discussion about the apparent damage to this historic barn, on route 100 at Horseshoe Trail. Isabelle tracked down the new owner, Charles Cantrell, and invited him to the meeting. Charles reported that a post had "blown out" and will soon be repaired. Other work, such as repairs to the large doors, will be required to help preserve this 45x45 ft., stone, bank barn.

**Interns and Coveted Equipment:**

The HRC still hopes for help with research beyond its members. Possible intern sources were discussed and a number of people offered to make contact with local college/university history departments; schools named include Franklin & Marshall,

Temple, Penn, West Chester, Kutztown, Millersville. This led naturally into discussion of the need for “ground penetrating radar” to help investigate cemeteries and possible Indian burial mounds. Again, several attendees suggested they might follow up with schools or other historic organizations to borrow such. Isabell is also investigating the cost of purchasing one for our dedicated use.

### **Projects (key team):**

- Stream Naming (Isabelle Travaglini, Suzanne Roth, George Graham)  
This committee has been researching and is obtaining USGS information and Isabelle will bring copies of Chester County Water Authority maps of WVT and surrounding municipalities. Barb reported that East Pikeland has been getting information from Vic Laubach of Green Valleys about Exceptional Value and High Quality streams; they are interested in the historic names.
- South of the Conestoga Road (Jane and Jim Helm)  
This team has done an extensive amount of research and has more planned. Jim is focusing on finding the people (landowners) and following them while Jane is researching the documents pertaining to the 8 key parcels in this area. Possible names for this area were discussed; it is confined to the more south and east land below route 401 (not the Black Horse Hill section). Work continues.

### **Clerical projects (reminders of work in progress):**

- Finish putting historic class for each property in the binders (Kathleen Forrester, Harriet Stone, others)
- Clarifying of details of historic assets in the Atlas (Isabelle Travaglini, Karen Oncay, Sara Shick, Harriet Stone)

### **Future research opportunities:**

- Expand Birchrunville Historic District
- Expand Highlands Historic District
- The Underground Railroad District in West Vincent
- French Creek corridor research (or is this part of the Native American work mentioned below?)
- Ludwig’s Corner and vicinity – the Conestoga story
- Churches, and the graveyards at 3 of them.
- Family graveyards
- Indian graveyards
- Bryn Coed Farm – Janney, Shaw, OJR
- And the list continues to grow: Native American Study (Isabelle has begun researching), Booklets, all the Ralston houses, and I’m certain there are more...

Meeting adjourned 7:15ish.

**Footnote:** The HRC committee, particularly Isabelle but others agreed, requests that Harriet Stone schedule her travels so as to not conflict with the HRC meetings.

**Next meeting – April 11, 6:30pm**