

West Vincent Township Historic Resources Committee

Approved Minutes June 13, 2016

In attendance: Isabelle Travaglini, Harriet Stone, Jane Helm, Jim Helm, John Coine, Don Cook, Barb Quinter, John Eldridge, Liz Albert, Peter Benton, Yvonne Brownlee, Sara Shick
Meeting called to order at 6:33.

April Minutes: A motion by Don and second by John E to approved May minutes as corrected, carried.

West Pikeland's Trolley Tour, July 14, 3-7. The HRC will provide material and staffing for one table in Yellow Springs. Website to get necessary tickets to be on the trolley is www.ironandsteeltours.org; you may want to sign up for the tour when you offer to help with the table. Schedule so far includes Karen, Barb, Isabelle, Harriet, Sara. Barb is working up material about three of our mines, the Pikeland train station. More will be added for display, including our Old Timer notebook and a sign-up sheet for the HRC email list.

Stream Naming (Isabelle Travaglini, Suzanne Roth, George Graham). Isabelle shared a map she got from the Chester County Water Authority.

South of Conestoga Road (Jane and Jim Helm). Work continues. Jane proposed 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. Jane and Harriet will coordinate this with Tammy to send letters out on WVT letterhead, as we did previously.

While we were on this subject, Barb thanked the Helms for hosting a descendent of the Kings on a tour of their home.

Clerical projects: Little progress to report; 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.

Birchrunville Historic District Signs (John Eldridge, others) All five signs have been installed. Thanks to John E and his team for getting this done. Thanks to generous donations from the community, these signs were purchased and installed at no cost to the WVT government.

Business from the assembled: The CCHPN will meet June 22 at the Downingtown Country Club. Harriet reminded us that the HRC has a fund to help members attend events like this one, or to take HRC-related classes. Neighbors expressed concern to the BOS about weed killer being used at the Vincent Baptist Church cemetery. Isabelle will investigate that when she meets with Marc Duey and his intern about their cemetery mapping project on Friday the 17th.

New Topics:

- **Isabelle's Blue Dot Map.** Using a 1790 map, Isabelle is matching militia members to property records.
- **UGRR Benches.** Isabelle had attended a program of the Chester County Historical Society on the topic of African-American genealogy and came with several ideas. The first concerns how we can share our data with CCHS. The second is to model our own "Buy a Bench" program, along the route and at sites we know were involved in the UUGR. She proposed simple benches, without back, with a plaque saying something like "Rest Traveler" and identifying the reason for the bench placement and program. She has been identifying locations and seeking permission from landowners.
- Karen is obtaining a large copy of the Wilson's Corner photo for display.
- Isabelle discussed the 1768/9 Vincent Forge on French Creek Road, John Young ironmaster, with his wife serving in the role during the war, included were 3 large plantations to support wood for the forge.

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
- 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.
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Next meeting – Monday, July 11, 6:30 pm