

**WEST VINCENT TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

**Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2021
7:00 PM via Zoom**

Members Present: Peter Benton, Chair; Bob Wise, Vice-Chair; Kate Farnham,

Members Not Present: Karl Brachwitz, Tommi Dulchinos

Also Attending: Michelle Hogrelius, Twp. Treasurer (Zoom host); Sara Shick, Twp. Supervisor; Cindy Clark, HRC; Barb Quinter, HRC

Peter Benton called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the September 14th meeting of the Historical Commission are pending.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PROJECTS:

New Township Website

Peter Benton stated that the primary purpose of this meeting is to review information to be included on the new Township website with respect to the Historical Commission and Township history. Maria Cantarero, Assistant Township Secretary, designed the website and has been rolling it out over the past month.

The Historical Commission page is located under the Government tab on the Home Page and includes the list of members and a very brief introduction. A list of documents that were available on the previous website are accessible here. The Historical Commission should consider updating this list.

The History page is located under the Resources tab and currently includes brief statements on Township history, Revolutionary War, Schoolhouses, and the General Store. Members of the ad hoc Historic Resources Committee, our Township historians, have been asked to recommend information to be accessible on this page.

As outlined on the agenda and through discussion, Peter suggested consideration of the following documents and links for the Historical Commission page:

- Policy statement outlining Historical Commission responsibilities and procedures
- Frequently asked questions

- Ordinance 184-2018 Historical Commission (creating the Historical Commission and listing its responsibilities)
- Zoning Ordinance – Article XXIV, Historic Preservation Overlay District (the primary Zoning Ordinance section related to historic resources and the Commission)
- Zoning Ordinance – Appendix B, Village District Design Guidelines (has relevance for its design guidelines for new construction in the historic village)
- Zoning Ordinance – Appendix E, Historic Site Inventory (the Township’s official inventory relevant to Article XXIV)
- Zoning Ordinance – Overlay Districts, Historic Resources Map (map showing the locations of inventoried resources)
- Historic Atlas Binder Map (map prepared by the Chester County Planning Department summarizing the 2012 inventory update)
- Historic Atlas Binder (binder of maps prepared by the Chester County Planning Department documenting results of the 2012 inventory update)
- Link to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation (National Park Service website)
- Link to Historic Resource Design Guidelines (for information and use by residents in work with their historic buildings; source to be determined)
- Link to History page
- Link to the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office website

The following documents would be removed from the page. They are accessible elsewhere on the website.

- Full Zoning Ordinance
- Full Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance
- Full Zoning Ordinance Appendices

Cindy Clark reviewed a list of potential documents and videos that could be posted on the History page. (See attached list.)

Peter suggested that the following information be added to the History page as well.

- Birchrunville Village National Register Historic District Nomination
- West Vincent Highlands National Register Historic District Nomination
- National Register Nominations for other historic buildings in West Vincent (5+)
- Historic Maps
- Bibliography for additional references

Peter suggested we gather all of the proposed materials into a Dropbox folder for everyone to review. Cindy will gather the HRC documents. Peter will gather the Historical Commission documents.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Frederick Sheeder Presentation

Cindy reported that Isabelle Travaglino will give a presentation on the History of Frederick Sheeder 1845-1846 at the Township Building on November 16 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. The presentation is being promoted on the Township website. RSVP is requested.

Building Questions

Cindy reported concerns expressed by Isabelle Travaglini regarding the historic house on the corner of Birchrun Road and Route 100. The house is vacant and there is concern about its condition and maintenance. Concern was also expressed regarding the reconstruction of the historic wagon/corn shed at the Risbon project, 670 Birchrun Road. The roof collapsed due to weather load while the barn was under construction for adaptive reuse – the shed is to be rebuilt. Peter Benton stated that the Historical Commission will follow up.

Native American Investigation

Barb Quinter reported that she is undertaking research on Native American presence within the Township for use in interpretation of the new Township park. Barb is reaching out to a variety of sources for information.

Adjournment – Business having been completed, the Zoom meeting ended by Peter Benton at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Peter Benton.