

**WEST VINCENT TOWNSHIP  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes**

**November 9, 2022  
7:00 PM**

Commission Members in attendance: Bob Wise, Chair; Kate Farnham, Vice-Chair; Karl Brachwitz; Peter Benton (via phone); Dana Alan, Township Supervisor. Commission Members not in attendance: Thomaseth Dulchinos.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The West Vincent Township Historical Commission's November meeting was held on Wednesday, November 9, 2022. Mr. Wise called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes of the October 12, 2022 meeting of the Historical Commission prepared by Mr. Wise were distributed. Ms. Farnham noted one spelling correction. **MOTION** by Mr. Benton for approval of the minutes; second by Ms. Farnham. *Motion carries unanimously.*

**3. APPLICATIONS:**

**1404 Hollow Road (Birchrunville Store Café):**

Discussion was postponed as no one was present for the Applicant.

**2200 Flowing Springs Road (Birchrunville Schoolhouse):**

Stephen Foley, architect for the project, was present for the Applicant. He presented and outlined updated plans for the proposed addition to the side of the building and associated alterations to the existing building. The side addition is proposed to be centered on the side wall rather than set to the left side, but visibility from the street does not change much. Commissioners asked various questions about materials, window types, roofing, and other details. The Applicant wishes to use stone veneer for the exterior. Several commissioners felt a compatible wood/hardiplank siding would be a more appropriate siding for an addition and two had concerns about what the veneer would look like. Window specs and photos showing examples of the proposed veneer style were not provided, and Mr. Benton, Mr. Wise, and Ms. Farnham would like to see those. Mr. Benton suggested that the Commission could approve the plans with conditions, namely that this information be provided, and give final approval when final plans are presented. Mr. Brachwitz stated that he was in favor of a straight approval without conditions.

**MOTION:** Mr. Benton moves to conditionally approve the proposed improvements to 2200 Flowing Springs Road with the understanding that the Historical Commission will review the final construction drawings when submitted for final review with the Township. Seconded by Mr. Wise. 3 votes in favor (Mr. Benton, Mr. Wise, Ms. Farnham), 1 vote opposed (Mr. Brachwitz - wants to approve project without conditions). Motion passed.

#### **4. OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **Opalanie Park:**

Cindy Clark of the Historic Resources Committee was present to discuss the progress of the interpretive panels authored by Mr. Benton and Barb Quinter of the HRC. Ms. Farnham and Mr. Wise have also reviewed and commented on the drafts thus far. One more panel is still being written and will be distributed for review soon. We are gathering historic photos and images, and need approval from the Supervisors to begin working with the graphic designer (Todd Palmer - Virtual Farm). Ms. Alan stated that placement of signage is still being decided, signage will be installed by the township road crew, and offered to be a liaison between the Commission and designer. Mr. Benton is to send a request for approval to Ms. Alan, the other supervisors, and the Township Manager to begin the process.

##### **1461 Pottstown Pike:**

Mr. Benton provided an update after conversation with Jason Barron: the letter we had drafted regarding the roof damage was sent to the owner of record last spring, but there was no response.

#### **5. NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no new business.

#### **6. PROJECTS:**

**Ordinance Update:** The Township proposes to retain Seth Hinshaw to go through our overlay district and verify/update building classifications per our Historical Atlas updated data from several years ago.

#### **7. REPORTS:**

There were no reports.

#### **8. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

**Griffith Property:** Ms. Alan stated that in a discussion between the Supervisors and Township Manager, there was a suggestion to refurbish the Griffith Farm farmhouse into 2 or 3 apartments and rent them as low-cost housing to Ludwig's Fire Company first responders. There was a brief discussion of this idea. The property's use is limited to agriculture and the Township had issues with previous tenants. Mr. Brachwitz stated that it would be better for the Township to sell it than to become a landlord, and other Commissioners agreed. The HC was asked to generate some alternate reuse ideas.

HRC: Ms. Clark reported on HRC activities; including effort with East Vincent to map the locations of properties mentioned in Frederick Sheeder's 1845 document.

#### **9. ADJOURN:**

Business having been completed, **MOTION** for adjournment was made by Mr. Brachwitz; second by Mr. Wise. *Motion carries unanimously.* Meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kate Farnham, Vice-Chair