

## West Vincent Township Historic Resources Committee

Approved Minutes July 11, 2016

**In attendance:** Isabelle Travaglini, Harriet Stone, Karen Oncay, Jane Helm, Jim Helm, John Coine, Don Cook, Barb Quinter, Kathleen Forester, Liz Albert, Yvonne Brownlee, Kate Farnham, Meryl Joblin, Sherry Cornish, Sara Shick. Meeting called to order at 6:40.

**June Minutes:** A motion by Jim and second by Isabelle to approved June minutes as submitted carried.

**West Pikeland's Trolley Tour, July 14, 3-7.** The HRC will provide material and staffing for one table in Yellow Springs. Staffing 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. Since a limited amount of our script is expected to be used during the tour, Karen and Isabelle will be finalizing (for now) the content and Sara will place photos Karen will provide and then make some copies to show at the tour. We will have a means for tourers to sign up to get a copy when the next revision is complete.

**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 Jane and Harriet will coordinate this with Tammy to send letters out on WVT letterhead, as we did previously.

**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. Kate will draft a letter that the HRC will ask be sent to the owner.

**Oral histories, HRC interviews, photography, and site visits** (Yvonne, Meryl, Marcy, Isabelle, Jim H, Sara) nothing new to report, 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:**

- Isabelle thanked Camphill Village Kimberton Hills for a new book for our historic resource collection.

**Other on-going efforts, briefly reviewed:**

- **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.

Meeting adjourned 8:00 on motion by Meryl, second by Kate.

Next meeting – Monday, August 8, 2016, 6:30 pm