

West Vincent Township Historic Resources Committee Minutes April 11, 2016 *APPROVED*

In attendance: Isabelle Travaglini, Harriet Stone, Mary Ann Ambrits, Jane Helm, John Coine, Don Cook, Barb Quinter, Karen Oncay, John Eldridge, George Graham, Ray Wanger, Peter Benton, Dwight Betton, Marcy Flickinger, Sara Shick

Harriet welcomed **new people** and explained the purpose of the HRC, a committee of the EAC.

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

Benner House discussion: Dennis Chalfant, representing his client Scott Lisbon, was on hand to discuss their plans for renovations of the home at 2074 Eagle Farms Rd. The house is protected by a façade easement between the developer Toll Brothers and WVT. The 2012 easement addresses only the façade of the farm house; the HRC had thought it covered the entire farmstead, including all of the out buildings, some of which have already been removed. The new owner is willing to preserve the springhouse, but had some specific issues to discuss: the two porches, the façade (stucco-stone mix, porch features, gabled walls), and the 1840 shed. Some members had already reviewed the building plans; others to review April 12 at 10:00 preparatory to a site visit, including the interior of the house, with Dennis at 6:30 on Wednesday the 13th. Isabelle, Karen, John C, Dwight, Marcy, Jane, Mary Ann, and Ray expected to attend. Note: Bob Wise had prepared the Historic Impact Study for this site and may be able to add to the discussion. Harriet will write up the many comments from this meeting and other received after the site visit in hopes to have consolidated comments ready for the BOS on April 18 when the applicant will address the BOS.

Report on UGRR Talk—lessons learned. About 25 guests attended a very good program; most stayed around for refreshments and to chat. Barb produced a family-tree handout of the Lewis-Fussell clans to aid the talk. The committee hopes for more advance publicity in the future in hopes of drawing a larger crowd.

Table event for **Community Day**, May 7, 10-3. Contents and staffing for two tables will be coordinated by Isabelle, Karen, and Jim and Jane Helm.

- a. Isabelle would like to engage residents in living history discussions.
- b. Isabelle might want to have a signup sheet for help at the Vincent Baptist cemetery, to help identify additional veteran's graves (some have been marked). (Dwight had done some work regarding the cemetery at St Andrews)
- c. Jane proposed preparing a display on the lower Conestoga corner; that offer was enthusiastically accepted.

Table event for **West Pikeland's Trolley Tour**, July 14, 3-7. Contents and staffing for one table. Website to get necessary tickets to be on the trolley is www.ironandsteeltours.org; you may want to sign up for the tour if you offer to help with the table. Karen, Sara, and Harriet have

volunteered to help with the table--no hours elected. Karen, Barb, and Isabelle will work on a display for our table. The HRC voted, on a motion by Sara, second by Isabelle, to ask the EAC to contribute \$100.00 to The Trolley Tour.

Stream Naming (Isabelle Travaglini, Suzanne Roth, George Graham) This is underway; George reports it will be a big, long-term project. They are identifying local and governmental resources to help.

South of Conestoga Road. Work on name and update of progress (Jane and Jim Helm) The Helms have done an amazing amount of work thus far and plan more. Marcy and Ray, who also live in that end of the Township, are interested as well; Marcy offers photography help, there and elsewhere in WVT; Ray has stories of growing up here and working on some of those farms. HRC is still thinking on possible name for this district.

Jane requested guidance on how detailed we should be in **documenting our research**, specifically sources. Peter Benton said the committee master files should include all sources, at least by reference; e.g., Benner family folder in Chester County Archives. The files we share with the public, as in our notebooks need not have all that detail, but we need to consider future researchers and keep all of the data/sources we can. He also suggests posting as much as we can on the internet to share with others.

Clerical projects: Slowly on-going, they include:

- a. Finish putting historic class for each property in the binders (Kathleen Forrester, Harriet Stone, others)
- b. Clarifying of details of historic assets in the Atlas (Isabelle Travaglini, Karen Oncay, Sara Shick, Harriet Stone)
- c. Getting our data digitized or otherwise safeguarded. (Harriet Stone, others)

Sign installation for **Birchrunville Historic District** (John Eldridge, others) The time is right.

Future research opportunities (not all were discussed during this meeting but was on the agenda and will continue be):

- Expand Highlands Historic District
- The Underground Railroad District in West Vincent Township
- French Creek corridor
- Ludwig's Corner and vicinity – the Conestoga story
- Churches
- Family graveyards
- Indian graveyards
- Bryn Coed Farm – Janney, Shaw, OJR
- And the list continues to grow: Native American Study (Isabelle has begun researching), all the Ralston houses, stories, etc.

Booklets and the web: Karen is making plans for a more detailed booklet on the UGRR, and other topics. She mentioned specifically the website and historic resources of East Vincent Township.

Collecting **more recent memorabilia.** Harriet raised this topic for consideration because of a donation of a printed shopping bag from the Richard Wright Antique Shop. (consideration in progress)

Meeting adjourned 8:30 on motion by George, second by everyone.

Next meeting – June 6, 6:30pm