

West Brandywine Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes June 9, 2003

West Brandywine Historical Commission (WBHC) Members (attendees in bold)

Susan Bowar, Joanne Conti, Judy Domanico, Howard Lambert, Amy Mills, **John Vilcheck, Jr.**, Jerry Wilmnzig, Andy Woods, **Gail Woods**

Dr. John Vilcheck, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM, the minutes from the May 5th meeting were approved with corrections.

Copies of WBHC meeting minutes and board correspondence will be forwarded to:

- West Brandywine Township Board of Supervisors (BOS)
- West Brandywine Township Manager (Ron Rambo)
- West Brandywine Planning Commission (John Cassels, Jr.)
- West Brandywine Zoning Officer (Dale Barnett)
- West Brandywine Parks and Recreation (Colin Judge)

Catania Property

WBHC has not received any communication or direction from the BOS or Codes Officer. Dr. John Vilcheck will obtain email address to facilitate communication. Minutes will be emailed to the BOS, Township Manager, Planning Commission, Zoning Officer, and any other interested parties. Dr. Vilcheck will draft a letter to Dale Barnett and copy the BOS with suggestions on ways to mitigate the township vandalism problem.

Irish Oaks

Dr. John Vilcheck left a message on the voice mail of Rich Allman @ 215-674-9750. The message said that the WBHC had approved the plan, and asked Mr. Allman for confirmation of receipt to assure communication.

Bentley

Bentley Property – John Shelton and Gordon Property -- includes Cedar Post Farm.

No new updates on this project. WBHC has not received any communication from the BOS or Bentley Properties and is not aware of any scheduled conditional use hearings.

Howe Turkey Farm

Weather prevented site inspection scheduled for May 10th at 10:30.

NOTE: WBHC will attempt to inspect either Howe Turkey Farm or the Eck property on Saturday June 28th.

All Souls Cemetery

Documents submitted to West Brandywine Township by Barton and Martin Engineers, 1230 Summer Street, Philadelphia 215-569-3750 dated 1/13/03 state on sheet one of the general development plan:

Conditional Use #11

Applicant will incorporate the re-use of the existing historical structures into their cemetery plans and will prepare a plan to address their continued upkeep and maintenance so as to prevent said structures from falling into any state of disrepair or lack of maintenance.

WBHC will draft a letter to archdiocese citing Conditional Use #11. WBHC believes that scheduled maintenance has not been done to historical structures while the property has been rented; the archdiocese will benefit financially from the sale of future cemetery plots and needs to meet its obligation to the township. PHMC paper work must be completed and to the best of our knowledge has not been.

WBHC New Business

Hide-A-Way Farms -- Wilkinson Builders

Dr. John Vilcheck received a notice 5/19/03 stating that WBHC needed to contact John Kessler, East Brandywine Historic Commission @ 610-269-9638. Mr. Kessler reported that buildings on Hide-A-Way farms were slated for demolition, including frame farmhouse, and wooden stables both of which are in West Brandywine. Copies of these minutes will go to JRK@bellatlantic.net.

Pratts Dam Road --Property owner Christian and Elizabeth Crane 29-8-3

Building on this property is completely down. WBHC is still waiting for drawings from the owner and codes office. Measurements should have been done to document exact location of the building. WBHC will draft a letter to Mr. Dale Barnett. Dr. J. Vilcheck salvaged some items and will donate pins and wedges from the site to the West Brandywine Township archives.

Siousca -- Pratts Dam Road, property owners Jack and Joann Conti

WBHC passed a motion requesting a BOS grant a permit to complete the repaid work on the barn at Siousca as per letter submitted by Joann Conti on May 14, 2003. This property has suffered for several years because of the indecision on how to preserve this important site for future generations. WBHC considers this property the “**Southern Gateway to the township.**”

John Milner – Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia

WBHC received an invitation to the residence of architect of John Milner to learn about current activities and collaboration with other regional organizations. Event takes place on Friday June 20th 5-7 PM at 525 North Creek Road West Chester, 19382. RSVP by Friday June 13th to 215-546-1146 x10 spaces is limited.

Town Tours and Village Walks

WBHC received memo from Town Tours and Village Walks and requests that West Brandywine Township include information on these events in the Township newsletter.

Resignation

WBHC received a letter of resignation from Howard Lampert.

Oral History

Dr. John Vilcheck spoke to West Brandywine resident Jean Ellis who lives on Cedar Knoll Road across from the Volmecke Farm. Jean's mother was a teacher at the Lafayette School House. Jean's parents ran Volmecke Farm and had farm hands that lived on outbuildings on the farm, she is willing to share information with us but prefers a more informal setting at Dr. Vilcheck's residence.

Mission of the group:

- Record historic sites in township
- Make recommendations when changes are proposed by developers or current property owners

Meeting adjourned 8:50 PM. Future meeting dates are: July 7th, September 8th, October 6th, and November 3rd (November 3rd in the new township building). There is no meeting scheduled in August.

Respectfully submitted: *Gail Woods*