

Meeting Minutes: February 11, 2008

West Brandywine Historic Commission

West Brandywine Historical Commission (WBHC) Members

Present

Hugh Redditt	X (HR)
John Vilcheck, Jr.	X (JV)
Barry Parsons	X (BP)
Jerry Wilmnzig	X (JW)

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by John Vilcheck

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

- West Brandywine Township Board of Supervisors (BOS)
- West Brandywine Township Manager
- West Brandywine Planning Commission
- West Brandywine Zoning Officer
- West Brandywine Parks and Recreation

Vote to accept Jan. 14, 2008, Minutes, approved 4-0, with corrections noted

Public Comment: none

New Agenda Items: Feburary 2008

1. Castaldi Property (on Beaver Creek Rd.) (site # 056)

The property is up for sale. There is an old roadway that once crossed the property, starting from the 1982 survey site # 057 Tabas, proceeding West to site # 056 (Anthony Castaldi). NOTE: The site will be required to have a historic dig per the specs of the PHMC. It has been reported that artifacts (i.e. coins and pottery) have been found in the soil around where the roadway once traversed the land.

2. Property on Rt 82 (former site # 123)

Property has ruins of the house and barn and will also be required to have a dig via PHMC standards. (Previously owned by Tabas and demolished to avoid paying building taxes.)

3. News Letter Articles:

Items are due Feb. 21, 2008. Suggested topics: Persons interested in providing oral history should contact the township so that a list may be compiled, and the information taken. Small informal groups would be ideal, etc. Suggestion made to have a guideline of questions to help keep the interviews moving in an orderly fashion. We are always looking for old photographs of the buildings and persons who lived in an around the township, or have visited here. Photos will be copied and the originals returned.

We request volunteers who like to do research but who do not want to acting as a voting member on the commission. We are also looking for persons who would like to serve on the commission as voting members and work on research projects.

Old Business – Jan 2008

1. HC Advertisement for membership--newsletter

2. HC Storage Requirements

Still open at this time

3. Reference Materials and Books

HR to purchase books and get reimbursed—lets try for Friday this week.

4. Gudal Properties: Track @29-650 (site # 106 Albert Gudal) JV & HR did take photographs Jan 2008. Letter to PC noting the importance of the markers and thus requesting their retention in situ. Old maps indicate that these markers were from the early origins of the township.

JV & HR took photographs on Sunday Jan. 13, 2008

NOTE: It was observed that two old stone makers boundary markers were knocked over in the fields. These markers should be replaced as they were, and they should be maintained on any subdivision plans. Other suggestions are that barn stone foundations should be repointed inside and out to maintain the barns integrity and promote its longevity. Minor roof repair to secure loose metal covering is also recommended to prevent rotting of roofing timbers.

5. Historic Property Reports: from 3 months of minutes are **still open at this time** Letter to PC spelling out our requests and forward directly to PC, with copy to BOS.

6. Historic Display Cabinet: HC request status of display cabinet request 18 months ago. **HC is resubmitting request to BOS for this item** Letter to BOS

7. Hideaway Farms (site # 037) – barn and house security—how is it at present?

8. Springhill Farms - (site # 019) No other actions at this time. Items remain open.

9. Reason Farm—Glen Loch (site # 079)

- a. Are there any permits?
- b. Is Site secured?
- c. Per ordinance the soffit materials need to closely match what was removed. This needs to be addressed by Codes and BOS.
- d. NOTE: Drive by inspection on Sunday, Jan. 13, 2008 showed building debris on a pile, porch roof framing, new windows installed, new roof and soffit. Please note that the original chimney on the west side of the house was removed. Replacement soffit material does not match the original design of the woodwork that was present. **This replacement does not follow the requirements of the ordinance. See Section #200 pages 160 to 161 and subsection #200-192 points A-J where the replacements are to be as near as possible**

10. Catania Property

Review by Dale Frens of Frens & Frens

Ask for recommendations of how the project should be staged, the costs associated with each stage, and when and how we could incorporate the students of CATA Brandywine. Need to re-read the grant apps that are available to match up goals and dollar amounts. Have township administration write the grants – or Debbie Pierri.

Mention to scouts for eagle project to erect fence

11. Pulte 55 + Housing

In reference to reparation buffer, the Ordinance follows the property not the people. Question about wastes that were dumped into the ponds on the tract of land to the north of the campground.

12. Swinehart Realty Bentley (site # 054)

Request for barn ruins to be on plans not received. Technically this is also a dig site per County Historic Preservation Officer, Karen Marshall. Letter to BOS noting information requests.

Communications Received:

1. Baldwin Farm (Hurricane Hill) from codes Dale Barnett dated 2-5-2008. Application to remove small structures along the roadway and erect a larger dairy barn. Photos needed. Attempt to do ASAP before demolitions. No problems seen, recommend to Baldwin family evaluate use of CATA Brandywine students for restoration of Spring house made when they met with WBHC in 2007 meeting attended.
2. West Caln Historic Society, Meeting Tuesday, Feb. 19 @ 7:00 PM, West Caln Twp Bldg. Subject: Meet Col. Teddy Roosevelt., Speaker Roger W. Arthur.

3. Letter from Karen Marshall, Heritage Preservation Coordinator to Ron Rambo. Dated Feb. 4, 2008 Re: develop WBT resource atlas, review procedures for subdivisions as relates to historic and archaeological resources and description of the process, and review conservation and development design standards with the WBHC.

New Business:

BOS meetings: January 08 HR & JV (in place of BP-snow) **DONE** ; February HR & BP; March BP & HR

Motions: None

Activities: Organize and arrange future oral histories with Elaine Alexander & Rhoda Moore, and as a separate meeting Mrs. E. Copeland.

Grant Writing: Consider having assistance of Debra Pieri
Consider writing some of the ghost stories of WBT for fund raising.

Demolitions:

Spring Hill Farms
Pulte & Bollinger Road

Photos:

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM
Next meeting – **March 10, 2008 at 7:30 PM**