

PRESS RELEASE

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**CONCERNED RESIDENTS OF WEST VINCENT TOWNSHIP FORM HISTORIC BIRCHRUNVILLE
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

*Group Created To Protect the Historic Resources of the Birchrunville Neighborhood and To Voice
Opposition to Excessive Commercial Development*

BIRCHRUNVILLE, West Vincent Township, August 17, 2013— A standing-room only crowd packed the Birchrunville Store Café Saturday morning to learn about the newly-formed Historic Birchrunville Neighborhood Association (HBNA). The association’s spokesman, Chris Barron, a Birchrunville resident, led a discussion about the need for the organization to be a voice for the residents and those throughout the township who believe that Birchrunville—a registered National Historic District—must be protected from excessive commercial development.

Reading from the HBNA’s mission statement, Mr. Barron said that the group’s purpose is “to actively protect, maintain, and enhance the quality of life of residents in and around the National Historic District of Birchrunville Pennsylvania, being mindful at all times of the unique flavor of Birchrunville and its historical heritage.” He went on to present in detail the proposed development of the historic Birchrunville Schoolhouse property on Flowing Springs Road by the developer Birchrun Village LLC. The proposed commercial development, currently under review by the West Vincent Board of Supervisors, would add three new buildings on the property in close proximity to the historic Schoolhouse. The current West Vincent Zoning Ordinance requires a minimum setback of 150 feet from a historic building, and the developer is requesting a waiver from that zoning requirement.

“We are not anti-development, but expect that the zoning ordinances that have put in place to protect the unique qualities of Birchrunville will be observed,” Barron said. “Two of the proposed buildings are completely within the restricted setback zone and the third is mostly within the zone.” He also pointed out that about half of the newly proposed paved parking lot is sited inside of the 100 foot wetlands setback.

Barron continued, “This commercial development also has parking for 34 cars. A 2008 traffic study estimated that the development would generate an additional 270 cars trips on a weekday through this village—and there are no sidewalks, so if you like walking your dog through Birchrunville, it’s going to be a dangerous proposition if this goes through as planned.”

The officers of the HBNA were announced: Dr. George Graham, President, Ms. Thomaseth Dulchinos, Vice President, Ms. Sue Krug, Secretary and Mr. John Eldridge, Treasurer. Barron also encouraged those in attendance to write to the West Vincent Board of Supervisors to express their concerns and to plan to attend the Board of Supervisors meeting on Monday, August 26 at 7:30 pm at the Township Building, where it is anticipated that the Board will announce their decision regarding the proposed development. To learn more about the proposed development, see: www.birchrunvillepeople.com