

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT:

info@historicbirchrunville.org

HISTORIC BIRCHRUNVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION ENGAGES PROFESSIONALS

Move Prompted by Concerns over Proposed Commercial Development in Historic Village

BIRCHRUNVILLE, West Vincent Township, September 3, 2013—The newly-formed Historic Birchrunville Neighborhood Association (HBNA) announced today that it has engaged professionals including an attorney, a land planner and an engineer over concerns that the proposed commercial development of the site of the historic Birchrunville schoolhouse violates the West Vincent Township Zoning Ordinance. The proposed development by Birchrun Village LLC consists of three new two-story buildings of 2,500 square feet each in close proximity to the historic schoolhouse, the “crown jewel” of the Registered National Historic District of Birchrunville. The HBNA is currently raising funds to support its legal defense of the historic village and schoolhouse. Those interested in contributing to the effort to oppose excessive commercial development of Birchrunville may send donations to: John Eldridge, Treasurer HBNA, P.O. Box 202, Birchrunville, PA 19421

The HBNA professionals concur that the proposed development, which will be the subject of a Conditional Use hearing at the West Vincent Township building on Oct. 14, violates the West Vincent Township Zoning Ordinance and the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. They expressed a “high level of confidence” that a court would not permit the proposed land development.

The HBNA’s mission 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.”

At an August 17 meeting to announce the formation of the HBNA, Chris Barron, a Birchrunville resident and HBNA member said, “We are not anti-development, but expect that the zoning ordinances that have been put in place to protect the unique qualities of Birchrunville will be observed. Two of the proposed buildings are completely within the required 150 foot historical setback from the schoolhouse and the third is mostly within the zone.” He also pointed out that approximately half of the newly proposed paved parking lot is sited inside of the 100 foot wetlands setback.

A “Walking Tour” of Historic Birchrunville will be held next Sunday, September 8, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The tour has been organized by the West Vincent Historical Resources Committee to celebrate the unique character of this well-preserved 19th century village.

To learn more about the proposed development, see: www.birchrunvillepeople.com