

**FEBRUARY 7, 2018 MEETING MINUTES
EAST AMWELL HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
East Amwell Municipal Building
1070 Route 202, Ringoes, NJ**

CALL TO ORDER & OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

The meeting of the East Amwell Historic Preservation Committee was called to order at approximately 7:30 PM by the secretary. Secretary Sharon Brighthaupt read aloud the following: “In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this is a regular meeting of the East Amwell Historic Preservation Committee pursuant to the meeting notice published in the January 26, 2017 issue of the Hunterdon Democrat. Notice of this meeting was filed in the Township Clerk’s Office, sent to the Hunterdon Democrat, and the agenda was posted on the municipal bulletin board.

ROLL CALL 2/7/18

Committee Member (term expires)	1/3/18	2/7/18	3/7/18	4/4/18	5/2/18	6/6/18	7/4/18	8/1/18	9/5/18	10/3/18	11/7/18	12/5/18
Susan Berger (12/31/18) (Alt 1)	X	X										
Jim Davidson (12/31/18)	7:35	X										
Frances Gavigan (12/31/20)	X											
Will Harrison (12/31/18)	X	X										
Jeff Kehlert		X										
Barbara Sageser (12/31/20)	X	X										
Pauline Serafin (12/31/19)	X	X										
Paul Sterchele (12/31/18)	X	X										
Peg Sullivan (12/31/18)	X											
Mary Van Horn (12/31/19)												
John Allen (12/31/18) (Alt II)	X	X										

Others present: Sharon Brighthaupt, Recording Secretary HPC

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Barbara Sageser noted no members of the public were present. Susan Berger made a motion to open and close to the public. Seconded by Pauline Serafin. All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

At the January 3, 2018 meeting Will Harrison asked for clarification as to the make-up of the committee and update of the dates for the tenure of the members. The secretary brought copies of the regulation and referred the members to the Township Website for a complete copy of the Ordinances related to the make-up of the Historic Preservation Committee. The secretary will update the dates as they are available (new oaths were distributed recently).

PRESENTATION OF THE JANUARY 3, 2018 MINUTES

Barbara Sageser asked if there were any changes or additions to the minutes from the January 3, 2018 meeting. Will Harrison made a motion the minutes be accepted, with the changes as discussed in the previous paragraph. John Allen seconded the motion for the minutes to be accepted as presented, and it carried unanimously.

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EAST AMWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATE

Jim Davidson reported the donations just keep coming. Someone from Hopewell Township who was a former antiques dealer has offered to donate items he currently has stored in his buildings. John Allen and Dave Harding have been researching a book found in Northern New Jersey with a notation inside indicating it came from Ringoes. John Allen reported the name in the book seems to lead to the father of the individual may have been located in the 1870 census in East Amwell Township. They are trying to locate their locations on the historic maps. Still more research to be done.

Jim Davidson has a talk this upcoming Friday at Hillbilly Hall and another may be booked for April as it is again sold out.

An accession document was approved at the last Historic Society meeting. They are beginning to update the by-laws of the society.

CLAWSON HOUSE UPDATE

Members of the committee have been visiting the Clawson House to inspect the updates. Jim Davidson mentioned there has been a large list of items of furniture donated for the kitchen. A large bill of an estimated bill was received for the heating in the Clawson house. The gas company was contacted and they assured it was an estimate and asked that \$300 be paid for now.

Jim Davidson mentioned the County Grant is due March 31, 2018. Pauline Serafin and Barbara Sageser mentioned they think the deadline for submitting is March 31, 2018. Jim Davidson will check on what the correct date should be. He has had a discussion with TC members regarding changing of the ordinance for the Clawson House in order to allow alcohol to be served for wine and cheese parties to take place in the house. Also, an important consideration being discussed is the need for purchase order numbers to be assigned in advance of any purchase of items for the collections. Members of the Society are trying to work out a way to deal with ensuring the rules are followed. Jim Davidson has discussed with the CFO and she is going to try to work it out with the auditor and the township attorney. He will report back after a process is identified. This is important to allow members who are looking for lighting fixtures at flea markets or on Ebay to have the opportunity to make the purchase when the items are found. Several of the TC members have been to visit the Clawson House recently.

Barbara Sageser gave a cursory report on the grant application she is working on completing.

John Allen reported three of the four historic signs have been placed and the fourth has been delayed, he asked that the fourth be placed on a Township property in order to expedite the installation. Also, the nominations are open for 2018 historic signs if anyone would like to make a nomination.

The ultimate goal will be to bring everything from storage in various places together in the Clawson House. Storage fees are expensive and we need to ensure to have the items out of storage by the end of the summer. Soon our focus will change on raising funds for upkeep and fixed expenses. Discussions are only just

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beginning for the means of maintenance and upkeep. The TC would like for the house to be self-sustaining. Perhaps be used for weddings and other events to help keep it funded.

Will Harrison asked if there will be a computer station available at the Clawson House in order to keep the records updated and available for research. At a later date, conversations will need to take place regarding computer equipment availability for the Clawson House. Currently we have everything backed up on a hard drive that can be moved from place to place.

QUICK COLLECTION WORK UPDATE

No progress to report. Discussion ensued and volunteers will be available on the Tuesday following this meeting at 10:30 AM, the notice has been done to ensure the regular work sessions can take place going forward. An additional work session was noticed for February 27, 2018. Jeff Kehlert expressed interest in becoming more involved in organizing the items in the collection. Barbara Sageser suggested she would set up Quick Collection Work Groups, those interested in participating can sign up on the sheet she passed around the group.

HISTORIC INVENTORY REVIEW UPDATE

Barbara Sageser and Peg Sullivan are working on it and will report at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS

Will Harrison suggested the committee revisit the by-laws to consider changing the stipulation of three people being a quorum. He suggested changing to 50 per cent plus one of the total voting members would be considered a quorum. This might relax the rules for working together in work sessions, or in the future when the Clawson House becomes a museum if a number of committee members show up at the same time we would not be operating outside the Sunshine Rules. Will Harrison made a motion it should be brought to the attention of David Wang Iverson for consideration of the Township Committee. Jim Davidson seconded, all in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE

ANNOUNCEMENT

The bridge at the front entrance of the Lindbergh driveway has deteriorated and someone reported there are holes where you can look down through. The County is trying to just repair as opposed to replacing. There are a number of residents and groups involved in trying to save the historic bridge. Jim Davidson suggested the committee might want to write a letter in support of not destroying the bridge.

John Allen mentioned the County Society is trying to organize a Past Perfect Class, he will try to get the information for members to sign up.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Barbara Sageser made a motion to open and close to the public. Pauline Serafin seconded. No public present. Jim Davidson made a motion to adjourn. Will Harrison seconded. All in favor.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00PM. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 7:30PM.

/s/ Sharon L. Brighthaupt

Sharon L. Brighthaupt, Recording Secretary

February 27, 2018
