

**MARCH 6, 2019 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 7:30 PM by Will Harrison. The Clerk 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 24, 2019 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 3/6/19**

Committee Member (term expires)	1/9/19	2/6/19	3/6/19	4/3/19	5/1/19	6/5/19	7/23/19	8/7/19	9/4/19	10/2/19	11/6/19	12/4/19
Susan Berger (12/31/19) (Alt 1) CLASS A	X	X	A									
Jim Davidson (12/31/21) CLASS A	X	X	X									
Frances Gavigan (12/31/20) CLASS B		X	X									
Will Harrison (12/31/21) CLASS B	X	X	X									
Alexis Antricoli (12/31/19)		X	X									
Barbara Sageser (12/31/20) CLASS A	X	X	A									
Vacant Position (12/31/19) CLASS C												
Paul Sterchele (12/31/18) CLASS C	X		X									
Peg Sullivan (12/31/18) CLASS C	X	X	X									
Mary Van Horn (12/31/19) CLASS C			A									
Eda Schmalz			R									

*Others present: Terri Stahl, Clerk*

Jim Davidson said that Barbara Sageser received an email from Eda Schmalz that she was resigning from the Historic Preservation Committee and the Historical Society. The Clerk will contact Barbara Sageser for the email.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Noting no public present, Frances Gavigan made a motion to open and close to the public. Peg Sullivan seconded. All favor.

**PRESENTATION OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2019 MINUTES**

Will Harrison asked if there were any additions or corrections for the minutes. Jim Davidson made a motion the minutes be accepted as presented, seconded by Alexis Antricoli. The spelling of Frances Gavigan will be corrected on two pages. All in favor. Minutes are approved.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**EAST AMWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATE**

Jim Davidson provided the following update: The Township will add 21 parking spaces near the museum. The East Amwell School art show finished last weekend with 100 people, including kids, at an

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open house with refreshments on Sunday from 1 – 2 p.m. There were some issues with some children scuffing walls with boots, picking up items on display, and accessing the archives room. Staff Only signs will be ordered for the office and archives room, and Frances Gavigan wanted a lock on the doors too.

There were good comments on School's Face Book page about the museum as good public relations. The School would like to have an event with the seniors and have a choir present. The Fulper Family also were at the museum this weekend and appreciated the displays, including pottery. The School art work was removed, and the next presentation is work from Mary Buckwalter, with Joann Nielson, Kathy Wolfe, and Gloria Wargo setting up the pieces. The following artist's work will be a display by Florence Moonan, who does pastel work. A juried craft show is set for May 18-19.

There has been a lot of cash donated, and the Sourland Conservancy sold over \$250 of their books. Jim Davidson will be doing another presentation of the *Dark Side of the Sourlands* at Hillbilly Hall and will split the proceeds with the Conservancy.

**QUICK COLLECTION UPDATE**

Brian Murphy has been working with Mary Ellen Costello on sorting, with books and pamphlets all added to the Past Perfect program. There were about 15 boxes of items left at Clawson House and about 7 boxes were brought back to the Township to store in the basement. They include duplicates and other items that the Township has given them permission to sell. There will be a giant flea market and the books will be put out to sell. Peg Sullivan asked about giving some to the school, and she was told that some were phonics book from Dr. Larison.

Some of the items that were found in the Quick Collection include the following:

- An 1809 Readington manuscript document being a three day pass for slave "Pomp" to go in search of a new master.
- A ca. 1878 Mineral, Rock and Ore chart, repaired by Brian Murphy with archival tape and put into a clear custom-made sleeve. The chart was most likely used by Dr. Larison to teach his students.
- A scarce 1867 copy of "Woman's Work in the Civil War."
- Multiple copies of Larison's book about his adventurous "Tenting School," with excellent descriptions of Monmouth Battlefield, Barnegat Bay, and Asbury Park.
- An 1860 copy of the Lincoln/Douglas Debates, a very scarce and valuable book work about \$3,000
- An 1894 copy of Historical Addresses delivered at the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Readington Reform Church with information about the opening of Cornet Geary's grave in 1891 and an address by Reverend Thompson on Readington's negroes.

Jim Davidson concluded that there was a lot of junk in the collection although there were some interesting items about East Amwell and some rare finds.

Frances Gavigan mentioned the Sylvia Dubois book and a reference to slave "Pomp." Jim Davidson commented on the practice at that time that if a slave didn't like a master, they had 3 days to find another master, who would purchase time from the previous master. Alexis Antricoli asked when New Jersey's

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gradual emancipation took place; Jim Davidson said that NJ was the last northern state to enact so around 1824 with about 12 slaves still around in 1860. The reference to slave “Pomp” in the Dubois book referred to the 1700’s era.

**EAST AMWELL MUSEUM**

Will Harrison asked if more docents were found for the museum. Jim Davidson put an article in the VIP, and a new candidate was interviewed, someone from Bloomberg who has time to do it and is also a photographer.

Jim Davidson said that someone suggested to him that a Shutterfly book should be made.

Jim Davidson mentioned that the inventory is complete and done on Quick Books. It will be sent to Frances Gavigan to close out the audit.

**BUDGET**

Will Harrison referred to the February 28, 2019 spreadsheet from the CFO regarding the Historic Preservation Budget. The Clerk explained that this was the temporary budget account status and the budget would not be introduced until April. Barbara Sageser made a presentation at the February 14, 2019, Township Committee meeting, and the governing body commented very favorably about the work of the Historic Preservation Committee and the Historical Society. They were supportive of the budget that the Historic Preservation Committee submitted. There was no action to be taken on the temporary budget handout.

**HISTORIC INVENTORY REVIEW UPDATE**

The inventory is still in the works, and Will Harrison hoped that pictures will be taken before the leaves are on the trees. Peg Sullivan believed that Barbara Sageser has the list of homes. Some comments were exchanged about who would be going out to take the pictures, and some members, including Alexis Antricoli and Will Harrison, needed applications for new ID cards. The Clerk will update the dates of expiration for those members who already have photo IDs.

**NEW BUSINESS – None**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Will Harrison mentioned an application to apply for the AASLH membership. It was unclear whether this was a new request or not since Jim Davidson earlier in the evening handed the Clerk a purchase requisition from Barbara Sageser to give to the CFO. Alexis Antricoli made the motion, seconded by Peg Sullivan to spend \$98.00 for membership, all in favor.

A request from Hunterdon County Cultural Commission to participate at the annual Community Day held at South County Park was discussed. Jim Davidson said Kathy Wolfe participated in last year’s event,

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and the Clerk mentioned participating for a couple of years prior. Jim Davidson said that those who participated last year said that they would not do it again, and some comments were made about the lack of attendance. Frances Gavigan made a motion to not express an interest in participating, seconded by Alexis Antricoli, all in favor.

There was a purchase order for archival material that Will Harrison was asked to sign, and it was noted that it was already approved at a prior meeting, so no action was taken.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jim Davidson said that the Hunterdon County Cemetery Committee is working on a Mountain Amwell Project, a ten year old project, led by David Reading. They enlist volunteers to maintain cemeteries that need repair. There will be an event on June 2 at 2 p.m., and four cemeteries will be toured with a reception afterwards. The cost is \$25.00. John Allen, Dave Harding, and Paul Sterchele are involved with this group.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Francis Gavigan made a motion to open/close to the public, noting no public present. Paul Sterchele seconded. All in favor.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Frances Gavigan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jim Davidson. All in favor. The next regular meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 7:30PM.

/s/Sharon L. Brighthaupt, Recording Secretary

March , 2019

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