

**MAY 2, 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 25, 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 5/2/18

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 (12/31/19) (Alt 1) CLASS A	X	X	CANCELLED	X									
Jim Davidson (12//31/21) CLASS A	7:35	X		7:40	X								
Frances Gavigan (12/31/20) CLASS B	X			X									
Will Harrison (12/31/21) CLASS B	X	X		X	X								
Jeff Kehlert (2/2018-12/31/19) CLASS C		X		X	X								
Barbara Sageser (12/31/20) CLASS A	X	X		X	X								
Pauline Serafin (12/31/19) CLASS C	X	X			X								
Paul Sterchele (12/31/18) CLASS C	X	X		X	X								
Peg Sullivan (12/31/18) CLASS C	X				X								
Mary Van Horn (12/31/19) CLASS C					X								
John Allen (12/31/18) (Alt II) CLASS B	X	X		X	X								

Others present: Sharon Brighthaupt, Recording Secretary HPC

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Barbara Sageser noted no members of the public were present. Mary Van Horne made a motion to open and close to the public. Seconded by John Allen. All in favor.

PRESENTATION OF THE APRIL 4, 2018 MINUTES

Peg Sullivan made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Will Harrison. With the exception of two abstentions, all others present in favor.

EAST AMWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATE

Jim Davidson began by mentioning the recent auction he attended at the former home of Roxanne and George Karkoff. There were two auctioneers going from 9-4. There were five people from the Historical Society in attendance. For the Clawson house the society acquired a Victorian glass front two-door bookcase for \$50. Also acquired was a box of historical documents. He has not had time to go through it yet, also historic books and three Davis prints. For \$10 a canister set in blue and white that perfectly matches the kitchen at the Clawson house. Also, a Cedar Grove cream bottle.

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CLAWSON HOUSE UPDATE

The contractor has completed all the trim. There is a short punch list to be completed next week. The kitchen cabinets are going to be installed Tuesday or Wednesday of next week. The antique sinks are in. All the ceilings have been painted with a second coat. The electrician is expected next week to begin hanging the lighting fixtures. Flood lights, exit lights, and emergency lights. The tile floors are in the kitchen and the foyer. The historic society is paying for the painting in foyer and the kitchen which is taking place today.

Two meetings have taken place and he is asking for volunteers to work on the details of the opening of the museum. To decide on a date for the opening. The first show will be the Fred Gardner Art Exhibition. Jill Neilson is a professional framer who has developed hanging systems for the Clawson house. These hanging systems will be installed in the front room with the Victorian bay window and along the long wall in the living room. In the other small room matching what we saw in the Doric House Museum, we will have four feet wide plywood panels covered with upholstery material of a type that will stick to Velcro or tacks through the felt to the plywood backing.

After the house is painted, the floors are done, and the rooms are finished we will need to decide which furniture pieces will be placed where. We will need to decide on what display cabinets will need to be purchased. Saturday, September 22, is the date we have chosen for the opening of the museum and the first show. A list of invitees is being developed. It will include all the members of the Historic Society, Historic Preservation Committee, the County and Township Officials, Cultural and Heritage Officials, individuals from other museums. People who have made donations of furniture or money, including people who have volunteered to work there and contractors. So far, the individuals without including spouses the number is up to 125. Potentially there could be as many as 200 attendees. It will be a two-day opening, the first day will be for officials and we will have the unveiling of the painting of the Clawson house done by Fred Gardner from 2:00-4:00 PM. A couple speeches at 3:00 PM. And an open house for the contractors. We believe we will have room to display approximately seventeen paintings in the two exhibit rooms. We hope to have music and food. We have many decisions to make, including if we should have a slide show showing the progression. Committee has been meeting on Monday, if you are interested please contact Jim Davidson and he will contact you by email when the next meeting is scheduled. He has asked the Northfield Bank for a donation to put toward the expenses of the opening of the museum and it is looking positive.

OLD BUSINESS

Barbara Sageser brought the binder being compiled containing the grant application and other important documents and photos collected during the refurbishing of the Clawson house. It includes photos of the workers and visitors to the open house and a copy of the letter indicating the committee has applied for other grants.

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QUICK COLLECTION WORK UPDATE

Jeff Kehlert has inventoried and there are about 400 books. Many are East Amwell and Ringoes, some are about the County. Two hundred ten "*Life in Rural Ringoes*". All are out on the table. Some of the books donated from the earlier Historical Society may be sold at the Community Day. Jim Davidson said the Society is going to discuss it at their next meeting. Also, the Sourland Music Festival is coming up and it is another opportunity to attract additional members to the Society and possibly sell some of the items in the collection.

Barbara Sageser suggested we might check with FOSPC they were discussing it at their last meeting. They have not participated in the past and may be interested in doing a joint table at one or more of these events.

Mary Van Horn and Jeff Kehlert volunteered to participate in Community Day. It takes a number of people to help out at the tables. Something is needed to bring people to the table. Usually something to occupy children. Pauline Serafin will complete the sign-up jointly with the Historic Society. Registration in advance is free. Barbara Sageser will ask Dee Kellogg about the tent for the Community Day event.

Jeff Kehlert will bring two boxes of books. There is a list of prices in the downstairs room with the other items.

HISTORIC INVENTORY REVIEW UPDATE

Not a lot to report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Oral histories: The secretary added this to the agenda to share with the committee a sampling of the audio tape transcription. The committee decided we should move forward with recording the cassette tapes as MP3 files. The files will be copied to a thumb drive and some of the members will listen to them to see what can be done with the recordings.

The committee discussed if this would be a good project to continue going forward. Jeff Kehlert and John Allen will get together and formulate the questions for future interviews. John Allen would like to do it, but for the next few months he does not have the time available. At a later date he may have interest and more time available.

Barbara Sageser suggested perhaps the committee should consider approaching Fred Gardner as part of the opening of the museum to do an oral history. Will Harrison should also be included on the list of those who have the knowledge of the history. The committee should be thinking of those who could be approached for their valuable historic knowledge in the town.

REPORT ON ARCHIVE CLASS – Pauline Serafin

- How best to preserve and present archival items
- The best way to preserve is to digitize the documents with photos if they are available. Describing the characteristics of the piece. Make everything clear and accurate
- Materials should not be reorganized. It should be kept in the order it is received.
- Labels should not be used, Ink will disappear. It should be done in pencil. It will last much longer in pencil.

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- They recommended a supplier in Millburn called B&H
- Items from the 1800's will last longer than those collected later. The older paper content included calcium which helped to preserve it. Newer paper was made cheaper and does not last as long.
- Catalog it in the order of receipt, categorizing using cross-referencing to make it easier to find.
- Along with the article if a history is available it should be included

CORRESPONDENCE

Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce – Community Day – Saturday June 2, 2018
Sourland Music Festival – June 23, 2018 – History Lane
Historical Society Newsletter

BUDGET

Barbara Sageser informed the group it appears we did not get the budget increase we requested. It appears we have now been given a budget of \$1,000.

DESIGN AWARDS

Barbara Sageser mentioned in the future after we have finished with the Clawson House we might want to think about nominating new Design Award Winners. It would be good for expanding the popularity of the committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Allen wanted to share a cemetery he found on some maps in 1909 topographical map. In 1958 the land was sold and it says, "it contained always and forever a quarter acre preserved as a black cemetery". John Allen sent a letter to ask for permission to go and search for it. It is supposed to be next to the orchard. It does not show on the survey he has available.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Barbara Sageser asked for a motion to open and close to the public. Pauline Serafin made the motion, seconded by Peg Sullivan. No public present. All in favor. Pauline Serafin made a motion to adjourn. Will Harrison seconded. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00PM. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at 7:30PM.

/s/ Sharon L. Brighthaupt

Sharon L. Brighthaupt, Recording Secretary

June 6, 2018
