

The Historic Preservation Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:50pm.

**In attendance:**

Members: Barbara Sageser, Frances Gavigan, Jennifer Floyd, Paul Sterchele, Jim Davidson, Pam McGovern, Kathy Cannelongo, Peg Sullivan

Historian: Jim Davidson

Secretary: Christine Rosikiewicz

**Absent:**

Pauline Serafin, Mary Van Horn, Dave Harding

**Statement of Compliance:**

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this meeting was advertised as a regular meeting in the January 22, 2012 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. Notice of the meeting was filed with the Township Clerk, posted on the Township bulletin board and sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Trenton Times on March 23, 2012.

**Approval of Minutes February 28, 2012:**

**J. Floyd made a motion to approve the February 28, 2012 minutes; K. Cannelongo seconded the motion. All were in favor; the minutes were approved as drafted.**

**Open to Public:**

**Being no comments from the public J. Floyd made a motion to close the meeting to the public; K. Cannelongo seconded it. All were in favor; the meeting was closed to the public.**

**Old Business:**

1. Report – History Presentation, Mayhem in the Mountains, Jim Davidson

The Committee agreed this event was a huge success, thanks The Historic Preservation Committee has scheduled a barn tour; the East Amwell Historical Society has a bus tour scheduled. B. Sageser expressed thanks to Frances Gavigan for selling books at the event, K. Cannelongo for her work with the banners and refreshments, and D. Harding for composing press releases.

2. Report – 2012 Grant Application – HCHP

B. Sageser reported that the grant application for Clawson House was submitted.

3. Report – Ringoes pamphlet grant on-line hosting – Jennie Floyd

J. Floyd will e-mail the Committee with the URL for the Past Perfect gallery and ask the clerk to link it to the Township website. B. Sageser expressed thanks to Jennie Floyd for all her hard work and making the gallery possible.

4. Report – Cavalier-Dippolito farmstead – Kat Cannelongo

K. Cannelongo is meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Dippolito next week. She will take pictures and measure the interior of the building.

5. Report – Clawson House – Barbara Sageser

B. Sageser reported that Township Committee Member Tim Mathews has suggested Clawson House be used to house the South County Branch Library as their lease is up at their current location. They would like to stay in East Amwell and require at least twenty-five thousand square feet. The footprint of Clawson House is 1073 square feet; with the addition it will be 320 square feet larger. The weight of the books was discussed. This item will be addressed at the next Township Committee meeting; B. Sageser encouraged the Committee to attend. The Clawson Park property was discussed; there is a constraint in place for the entire property (including the house and park) that it can only be used from dawn to dusk. Reconstructing the barn and using it for the library was also discussed.

**New Business:**

1. SHPO Project Authorization

B. Sageser reported that the forms were sent to the architect.

2. Draft of Planning Board Solar Ordinance

F. Gavigan advised the Committee that the Planning Board would like this ordinance to be on the May Township Committee meeting agenda. The Committee reviewed the proposed ordinance highlighting the following:

The language regarding views from historically significant buildings (sites verses districts and structures) was discussed. Screening was discussed.

F. Gavigan advised that there is no impact statement.

The proposed ordinance refers to Planning Board code 92.4 for the definition of a historic site; B. Sageser read the code to the Committee.

B. Sageser stated that the list of historic sites will become part of the Master Plan when it is revised this year or next enabling them to all be protected.

B. Sageser noted that the proposed ordinance addresses landscape buffers and dual uses of the property. F. Gavigan provided background information on how the restriction on dual uses affected past applications.

Deed restricted lands in regard to the ordinance was discussed.

B. Sageser read section 4B from the proposed ordinance and commented favorably on it. She and F. Gavigan agreed the ordinance is needed.

J. Floyd inquired if historic preservation elements were included in conservation easements; B. Sageser and F. Gavigan agreed this would be favorable. B. Sageser suggested it state "existing historic preservation easements must be protected".

B. Sageser will put together a draft addressing these issues.

J. Davidson left the meeting at this time.

### 3. Historic Preservation 2012 Proposed Budget

The 2012 budget for the Historic Preservation Committee secretary salary was discussed. Last year \$500 was budgeted; that amount was carried over for this year. It was noted that this will be inadequate as last year the line item was depleted by mid-year and the workload is increasing. P. McGovern noted it is "fairly important" to increase this line item as there is a lot going on outside of the meeting as it is an active committee and commented on "whatever you can do to have the resource of a secretary is very important".

**J. Floyd made a motion to increase the salary budget line item to \$900. P. Sullivan seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed.**

B. Sageser asked C. Rosikiewicz to advise the CFO of the change.

### 4. Demolition Ordinance

B. Sageser opened a discussion regarding the proposed demolition ordinance. F. Gavigan noted that the impact statement including "countryside aesthetics" has been removed. The committee discussed this item; it was suggested that it be left in and "impact on historic resources" be added on page 7. It was noted that impact statements are always a part of any kind of environmental issue; therefore impact statements should be allowed. The impact statement would address noise, glare and property value for neighboring properties.

F. Gavigan referred to the height maximum of twelve feet for solar panels and noted that adjacent communities have a requirement of four and a half feet. B. Sageser noted that the higher the panels are the less impact there is on the soil. F. Gavigan said with the new panels this is less of an issue.

Committee members suggested the Environmental Commission consider the soil aspect and F. Gavigan consider the soil and farming aspect of the proposed ordinance via the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

B. Sageser addressed the value in raising the awareness that "we have all these historic resources and they are recognized nationally and are part of national heritage area." She referred to the "synergy" and importance and value to what "we have here".

Regarding the proposed demolition ordinance B. Sageser referred to the four items discussed at the February meeting. G. Gavigan drafted the proposed ordinance based on the City of Lambertville's ordinance. The Zoning Officer will review it. Incorporating a triggering mechanism and a six month time limit was agreed upon.

F. Gavigan suggested the permit requirements, a checklist, current historic inventory and map be available on the Township website. She outlined features in the ordinance including a triggering mechanism, the location, placement on the state and national historic registry and the effect on the ambiance of the area. A discussion of whether to require photographs, drawings and/or measurements of the structure to be demolished took place. A survey should be submitted if available.

K. Cannelongo left the meeting at this time (9:30p.m.).

F. Gavigan will edit the proposed ordinance as discussed and provide the Committee members with a copy of it when completed. The Planning Board would like to review this ordinance at their April meeting.

J. Floyd inquired if a subcommittee could be formed to work on this item; F. Gavigan and P. McGovern will form a subcommittee.

**New Business:**

1. Goals for 2012

B. Sageser presented the Goals for 2012 for the Historic Preservation Committee; the Committee commented favorably on them and complimented the job done composing them.

**J. Floyd made a motion to accept the 2012 Goals for the East Amwell Historic Preservation Committee; P. Sullivan seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed.**

The next Historic Preservation Committee meeting will be on April 24, 2012 at 7:30p.m.

**Correspondence:**

There were no comments on any correspondence.

**Adjournment:**

**J. Floyd made a motion, seconded by F. Gavigan, to adjourn the meeting at 9:37p.m. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Christine A. Rosikiewicz  
Historic Preservation Secretary