

In Attendance:

Members: Barbara Sageser, Frances Gavigan, Pam McGovern, Paul Sterchele, Pauline Serafin via phone.

Secretary: Terri Stahl, Clerk

Absent: Jennifer Floyd, Mary Van Horn, Kat Cannelongo, David Harding, Margaret Sullivan, Jim Davidson,

Statement of Compliance:

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this meeting was advertised as a regular meeting in the February 7, 2013, issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. Notice of this meeting was filed with the Township Clerk, posted on the Township bulletin board, and sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat, the Trenton Times, and the Star Ledge on May 20, 2013.

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m.

Approval of April 23, 2013, Minutes

Motion by Frances Gavigan, seconded by Paul Sterchele, and carried to approve the minutes with one correction on page 2, regarding the Pickell invoice for Clawson House – the bill is NOT paid from the grant, i.e., the grant only covers actual work and the other expenses will come from Open Space funds since the Township Committee approved a resolution to assist.

Open to the Public

Ron O'Reilly, Losey Road, said that he wanted to get involved in the Township and wanted to see what the Committee was doing.

Motion by Frances Gavigan, seconded by Paul Sterchele, and carried to close to the public.

Old Business:

Clawson House Update: Barbara Sageser gave an overview of the grants for the house, including applying for the third Hunterdon County grant two months ago. She spoke with the new County Administrator, Ken Bogen, but there has been no decision yet. He asked for a summary of the house/grants, which Barbara prepared and will mail to him shortly. Barbara outlined the prior grants received, e.g., first for back addition and handicapped accessible

entrance, second for foundation and basement repair, third for continued interior work, electric, and security; the need for State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) review; an understanding between the County and the State that the house will retain elements from different eras, e.g., pocket doors, bay window, etc. Barbara further explained that the previous County Administrator retired, and it was unclear how to proceed. The summary was reviewed by other Committee members, and it was agreed that it would be forwarded to Mr. Bogan for review and action. Barbara also mentioned the architect's involvement in the approval process.

Barbara Sageser mentioned a recent editorial she prepared for the Star Ledger on historic structures.

The payment process for the architect was briefly discussed, including the need for a purchase order and payment of his bills from Open Space funds. Barbara Sageser sent Township Administrator Matheny pictures of damage to the house after Superstorm Sandy. She and Frances Gavigan attended a recent historic awards ceremony at the Hunterdon County Courthouse, and they met Dan Saunders from SHPO, who indicated that there may be FEMA money available for the damaged slate roof, i.e., there are 36 damaged slates on the roof, and the cost to repair may be around \$2,300. Additionally, after the storm, there were larger areas where animals could easily access the house.

Pam McGovern asked about using funds to clean up the basement and repair damage before the rest of the SHPO review. Some discussion took place about maintenance issues, with Frances Gavigan stating it was a question of maintenance vs. mitigation. Barbara Sageser spoke about the Township Committee passing resolutions to use a minimal amount of Open Space money to assist, but drawings have to be prepared before grant money can be used. Barbara will meet with Tim Matheny on Thursday to discuss payment options for the architect and funding availability as outlined in the Township's resolution.

Dipollito Farmhouse: Barbara Sageser said that a meeting is being set up with the Dipollitos, Jenny Floyd and Frances Gavigan; she is waiting to hear from the Dipollitos on a date and time. Kat Cannelongo has been meeting with the property owner at SADC, but no headway has been made. The object is to save the existing farmhouse.

Design Awards: Brochures will be available at the up-coming HCCH expo.

Inventory: There are a number of errors on the inventory, e.g., block and lot numbers do not match location, etc. Pam McGovern's son is willing to help with photographing, and he will work with Frances Gavigan, who has an Excel sheet of the inventory (which the County did not use).

New Business

Secretary's Job Description: Barbara Sageser outlined the situation of the Committee originally doing minutes themselves, having Martha (Pittore) and Christine (Rosikiewicz) as secretaries, and now searching for a new secretary. One option being offered by Maria (Andrews), Planning and Zoning Board Administrator, is to have the Committee run the meeting themselves, and she would do the minutes, adding five hours per board to her monthly schedule for the work. Barbara outlined what was involved in accessing the building and recording.

Frances Gavigan, who serves as Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, believed that it would be an advantage in having facilitated communications with the Agricultural Advisory Committee and the Planning Board. The Historic Preservation Committee has assignments for the demolition ordinance, inventories, etc. from the Planning Board, and coordination with them would be helpful. Frances also felt that it would be cost effective (no secretary at meeting) and would allow the secretary better time management (doing minutes from tape, looking at reports, etc.)

Pam McGovern offered to assist in coming early to meetings and setting up; the compliance statement is a template, and it would be read into the record.

Terri Stahl mentioned that the Township Committee did discuss this option at their last meeting, and they agreed that it was a second option to consider. Frances Gavigan also mentioned that the Township Committee did agree, at that meeting, that the three positions (Historic, Agricultural, and Recreation Secretaries) could be split. She noted also that the Township Administrator has sole decision-making without input from committees or chairs. On a suggestion that it would be unclear from the tape what member made specific comments at the meeting, Pam McGovern suggested that members could be retrained to say their name before they spoke.

Committee members agreed that they would be open to this option of coverage.

Planning for Programs: This item was tabled until Jim Davidson was present at the next meeting.

Planning for HCCH Expo: The program is on Saturday, June 8, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., outdoors at the County Complex. Committee members discussed what will be displayed, with the following items: the new trifold will be updated with information suitable for countywide interest; a computer is not necessary; the tablecloth with images will be displayed; books will be offered for sale; Pam McGovern suggested something be created for children, e.g., a treasurer

map to color, a game to identify the dates of historic buildings, fun facts about the Township, etc. There is money in the budget for expenses, such as reproduction of items at Staples. Barbara will send the announcement flyer to be put on the website and posted at the municipal building.

Work Day for Office: Jenny Floyd will lead this group in getting the scrapbooks and other collectibles into the new archival boxes, as recommended by the recent visit from an archivist. No date was mentioned.

Offer from Ron O'Reilly: Ron mentioned that he has done historical productions in the Sourlands, and he offered to do a presentation of discussions between Dr. Larison and another party. The program can be from 40 minutes to as long as the Committee likes. Ron lives in the first settlement on Losey Road, which was built in 1741 and sold in 1742.

The Committee thanked Ron for his offer.

Pauline Serafin signed off from the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Correspondence: Marilyn Cummings sent an email asking for more information on historic districts in the Township. Frances Gavigan previously scanned information about all the districts and hamlets (developed by Dennis Bertland), and an electronic copy of the Ringoes District will be sent to Marilyn.

Information on Museum Studies was offered to all members for their information.

Approval of Bills: Barbara Sageser will work with Tim Matheny on the bills.

Next Meeting: June 25, 7:30 p.m. – It is hoped that Jim Davidson will be present to discuss programs.

Further Discussion: Ron O'Reilly asked about the Committee's challenges, other than money. Barbara Sageser mentioned the need to correct the inventory for the Hunterdon County book that will be going to print this summer. She mentioned a disconnect between the information provided by the county on the original inventory in the 1970's and pictures and documentation recently done by the Historic Preservation Committee. Planner Banisch does have a map of the properties, and Frances Gavigan has an Excel sheet with an inventory – coordination of all the information is the goal. Pam McGovern offered to help as needed, and Barbara Sageser said that the Committee will accept any volunteers who are willing to assist on this time sensitive project.

Marilyn Cummings was mentioned as having a map of Delaware and East Amwell layered with all historic maps, including Indian maps - the Historic Preservation Committee is working with her as an on-going task.

Adjournment: Motion by Paul Sterchele, seconded by Frances Gavigan, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk