

**EAST AMWELL HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes: July 17, 2013, East Amwell Municipal Building, 1070 Route 202, Ringoes, NJ**

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the East Amwell Historic Preservation and Heritage Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:35 PM by Chairwoman Barbara Sageser. The following notice was read by Recording Secretary Scott Bauman: "In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this is a regularly scheduled meeting pursuant to the annual meeting notice as published in the July 4, 2013 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat, a copy of the agenda for this meeting was forwarded to the Township Clerk's Office and posted on the municipal bulletin board."

**Attendance**

**Present:** Chairwoman Barbara Sageser, Kat Cannelongo, Jim Davidson (arrived 7:42 PM), Jennifer Floyd, Frances Gavigan, David Harding, Pauline Serafin, Paul Sterchele, Mary Van Horn, Pam McGovern

**Absent:** Margaret Sullivan

**Approval of June 25, 2013, Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Ms. Van Horn, seconded by Mr. Sterchele to approve the June 25, 2013, meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote with abstentions by Ms. Cannelongo, Ms. Floyd, Mr. Harding, and Ms. Gavigan.

**Open to the Public**

Chairwoman Sageser opened the meeting to the public. Ron O'Reilly, Losey Road greeted the Committee. On a motion made by Mr. Harding and seconded by Ms. Gavigan, the Committee unanimously approved to close the public portion of the meeting.

**Old Business**

1. Discussion- New Role of East Amwell Historic Society: Chairwoman Sageser said that the East Amwell Historical Society recently obtained non-profit status. Historically, the Society prepared program booklets, conducted oral history interviews, conducted house tours, and awarded scholarships. Chairwoman Sageser read aloud §86-3.A through 3.M of the East Amwell Municipal Code which cites the intended purposes of the Historic Preservation and Heritage Advisory Committee. Chairwoman Sageser added that the Committee does not have police powers- the Committee educates, promotes, and encourages historic preservation to the public.

Mr. Davidson arrived at 7:42 PM.

Chairwoman Sageser commented that the budget for the Historic Committee is as follows: education / training: \$100; special programs / projects: \$1,000; quick collection / archiving: \$250; professional assignments: \$100; and miscellaneous: \$100. Chairwoman Sageser felt certain that the Historic Committee's budget was not cut this year.

A discussion ensued as to whether the Historic Preservation Committee and the Historic Society could jointly sponsor programs, share rental costs, etc. Chairwoman Sageser encouraged those

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present to seek speakers who could speak on topics that fit into the Committee's goals and purpose. Ms. Cannelongo said that prior to jointly sponsoring programs with the Historic Society we should check with the Township Committee- since the Historic Committee is not permitted to raise money and the Historic Society can- we may not be able to hold joint events where there is a fee charged.

2. Report- Clawson House: Chairwoman Sageser informed those present that as part of the 2013 Open Space Trust hearing of July 11, 2013, the Township Committee allocated to the Clawson House \$8,500.00 for rehabilitation costs.

Ms. Serafin had volunteered to help Dave Carlson of Riverside Restorations to obtain New Jersey Business Registration; she informed the Committee that Mr. Carlson had applied online and is awaiting receipt of the business certification- he will inform her when he receives it.

Chairwoman Sageser announced that Chris Pickell had delivered revised drawings and specifications but after reviewing his submission, the specifications cite the standards for restoration, and not rehabilitation, as per the direction of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO); she will reach out to Mr. Pickell to determine if his submission satisfies the requirements of the SHPO. Upon confirmation of correct plans and specifications, Mr. Bauman will send them to the SHPO with a cover letter.

Ms. Floyd asked about how the bidding process will work. Chairwoman Sageser said that the architect of record will work with the municipality and the Historic Committee; in this case Mr. Pickell has worked with other municipalities under similar circumstances. An advertisement will be made for bidders, the bidders will be screened and approved; the specifications and plans will be distributed to the approved bidders, a site visit and walk through will be conducted, bids will be submitted, and there will be an open public bid opening. Mr. Bauman informed the Committee that he has had experience with qualifying bidders for grant funded historic preservation work and would be willing to assist the Committee as the project progresses. Planner Ken Bogen of the Hunterdon County Planning Board is most likely the contact person for historic preservation grant submissions.

3. Report- Design Awards: Mr. Davidson recommended nominating the Chamberlin House on Rainbow Hill Road that has exceptional gardens; he will make an attempt to speak with the owner.

Mr. Sterchele informed the Committee that he spoke with the owner of the Lears home on Welisewitz and Wertsville Roads and gave him a brochure. The owner was open to it but was non-committal at the time; Mr. Sterchele will follow up with the owner soon.

Ms. Gavigan said that she spoke to a homeowner but that person was reluctant to receive the publicity. Chairwoman Sageser implored Committee members to keep looking for potential nominations. A discussion ensued over the award plaques that are given as part of the recognition; Ms. Floyd agreed to follow up on some leads provided to her so that the Committee can be assured that they are getting a competitive price for the plaques. Last year three plaques cost \$450; the consensus was that the Committee could do better in getting a lower price.

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A discussion ensued over the installation of historical roadside markers. Mr. Davidson said the county installs 5 new ones each year and replaces ones that go missing. Several years ago Mr. Davidson prepared an inventory of roadside markers in East Amwell; he counted 25 markers. Chairwoman Sageser thought it would be ideal to ensure that all of East Amwell markers are in place prior to the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hunterdon County celebrations.

4. Work Day For Office / Computer Filing and Organization: Chairwoman Sageser reported that Peg Sullivan did retire on July 13 and she is getting together with Ms. Van Horn to discuss how to organize and store the historic records in the basement office. in mid-July
5. Report- Speaker Research: Ms. McGovern said that Ron O'Reilly is trained in theatrical dialog; Mr. O'Reilly said he has done theatrical dialog in the past and is willing to do a Sylvia Dubois / Dr. Cornelius Larison dialog with an actress, preferably an African American actress. If a grant is available, an actress can be hired, if not the Committee should look locally. A recommendation was made to inquire with the Somerset Valley Players in Hillsborough for actors. Ms. McGovern thought it would be nice to do a series on Dr. Larison himself and culminate it to the Larison / Sylvia dialog. It was suggested that these events could be planned for February 2014- Black History Month. Ms. Gavigan said she has some books by Larison that Mr. O'Reilly can look at; it was further added that there are a number of books and scrapbooks in the basement office that has some material that may be of interest. A discussion ensued on how to display the Larison Collections and the need for a lockable display case.
6. Children's Programs: Mr. Davidson spoke with East Amwell School Superintendent Ed Stoloski about children's programs. Mr. Stoloski said the 4<sup>th</sup> grade is when students learn about local history; they already do archeology, walking tours of Ringoes, a bus tour of East Amwell, and a State House tour. Paul McCaffey would be the teacher to approach about a local history program.
7. Mapping Projects: Mr. Harding is speaking with Marilyn Cummins to assist her with her Google Map project. Mr. Harding plans to work with her to create a walking tour of downtown Ringoes. Chairwoman Sageser queried on how the Committee can use the map; suggestions included podcasts, focusing on the hamlets, walking tours, and biking tours. A discussion ensued over the material available in the basement office and the need to organize it and update it where necessary- using that information for brochures for the walking tours, podcasts, and maps.

### **New Business**

1. Second Half of Year Planning: Chairwoman Sageser said that the conversations already held tonight covered the second half of the year planning for the Committee.

### **Correspondence**

1. Chairwoman Sageser said FOSPC Chairwoman Glorianne Robbi informed her of Assembly Bill A4034, the "New Jersey Rural Microenterprise Act", introduced April 29, 2013, authorizing the SADC to permit operation of certain microenterprises on certain preserved farms. Without knowing the details of the bill, Mr. Bauman agreed to retrieve the bill and forward it to the Committee via email.

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2. Chairwoman Sageser commented that Mr. Bauman sent her an email announcing that the 2013-2019 New Jersey Comprehensive Statewide Historic Preservation Plan has been finalized, approved by the National Park Service, and is now available online. Hard copies can be downloaded and printed. Mr. Bauman will obtain a hard copy of the Committee
3. Chairwoman Sageser cited an exchange of emails between herself and Andrea Tingey of the State Historic Preservation Office concerning multiple property designations- a way of nominating several properties outside of historic districts that share similar characteristics and theme. There are several properties on the township that would benefit from such a multiple property designation. Mr. Bauman asked if there was a map and inventory of historic properties' Chairwoman Sageser said she would email Mr. Bauman a copy of Frank Banisch's maps.
4. Ms. Cannelongo said the State recently released a geoweb map with a historic property layer and recommended that members of the Committee take a look at it through the State Department of Environmental Protection website. Chairwoman Sageser suggested that historic inventory, mapping, and demolition ordinance should be placed on the August agenda.
5. Ms. Gavigan commented that she is presently reading the township's Planning Board meeting minutes from the 1950's and it would be nice to have the minutes digitized so that they could be preserved and be made available for researchers. Chairwoman Sageser agreed, commenting that those types of projects are part of the Committee's mission statement.

**Approval of Bills - None**

**Adjournment**

A motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Van Horn to adjourn was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:11 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2013, at 7:30 PM in the East Amwell Municipal Building.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Scott Bauman, AAC Recording Secretary  
July 20, 2013

**MOTION TO APPROVE: Frances Gavigan**

**MOTION SECONDED BY: Pauline Serafin**

**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE: August 21, 2013**