

MEETING MINUTES
EAST AMWELL HISTORIC PRESERVATION & HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 30, 2013; 7:30 PM; 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 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, posted on the municipal bulletin board, and faxed to the Hunterdon County Democrat.”

2013 Attendance

Committeeperson Class / Term Expires	1/22/13	2/26/13	3/26/13	4/23/13	5/28/13	6/25/13	7/17/13	8/21/13	9/18/13	10/30/13	11/20/13	12/18/13
Kat Cannelongo Class B, 12/31/2013 (res. 9/13)				X			X		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Jim Davidson (Alt #1) Class A, 12/31/2013		X		X		X	X	X				
David Harding Class B, 12/31/2013		X		X			X	X	X	X		
Jennifer Floyd (Vice Chair) Class B, 12/31/2014	X	X	X	X			X		X	X		
Pamela McGovern (Alt #2) Class C, 12/31/2014	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Paul Sterchele Class C, 12/31/2014		X		X	X	X	X		X	X		
Peg Sullivan Class C, 12/31/2014		X		X					X	X		
Pauline Serafin Class C, 12/31/2015	X				X	X	X	X	X			
Mary Van Horn Class C, 12/31/2015	X			X		X	X	X				
Frances Gavigan Class B, 12/31/2016	X		X	X	X		X	X	X			
Barbara Sageser (Chair) Class A, 12/31/16	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		

Others present on 10/30/13: Will Harrison, David Deutch, and Recording Secretary Scott Bauman

Approval of September 18, 2013, Meeting Minutes

Mr. Harding made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sterchele to approve the September 18, 2013, meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Open to the Public

Ms. McGovern made a motion, seconded by Ms. Sullivan to open the meeting to the public. Will Harrison of 4 Larison Lane, Ringoes introduced himself as a long time resident; he is awaiting confirmation by the Township Committee and looking forward to becoming a member of the Historic Preservation Committee.

David Deutsch introduced himself; he was before the Committee in August and at that time he informed the Commission that he is shooting a pilot television show called Hidden History America. Mr. Deutsch has filmed a few episodes in the central New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania. He told the Committee that he is now wrapping up his pilot show, he has a trailer on YouTube, and he is seeking \$100,000 in funding with the help of a crowd funding website called kickstarter.com. Those present wished Mr. Deutsch success and asked him to continue the Committee updated. Several members agreed to view the trailer after the meeting.

Hearing no further comments from the public, Vice Chairwoman Floyd made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting; Mr. Harding seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Old Business

1. Clawson House Rehabilitation

Chairwoman Sageser reported that structural, basement, and roof repairs have already begun and most of the work that was started is now almost complete. Dave of Riverside Restorations is also performing exterior repairs- covering critter holes. Chairwoman Sageser said since water from the main roof has poured down into the basement, it has created bulging basement walls. Two jackposts are being used in the basement to

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stabilize a sagging beam in the back of the house. Chairwoman Sageser would like to inspect the work but would like to do it with a second committee member. Mr. Sterchele volunteered.

Chairwoman Sageser reported that the contractor has replaced 30 slate roof tiles that were blown off the roof at the back of the house during Superstorm Sandy. While on the roof, the contractor found other tiles that were broken, he got a price for that work but we cannot go ahead with that work without going through the township. Chairwoman Sageser said she is dealing with the Township Administrator for a requisition to make the roof at the Clawson House water tight. The roof work that has been previously paid for has come from a capital account- this made sense to the Township Administrator. The contractor is proposing \$1,200 for 30 slates; 50 more slates for \$600 more. The same funding source originally used for roof repairs is expected to be there to cover these additional costs. 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. Sullivan asked whether the integrity of the roof is good now or is this patchwork; Chairwoman Sageser said she has not yet gone into that much detail but she will be considering that when she makes her site inspection.

Chairwoman Sageser reported that the township got a letter dated October 10, 2013, from the State Historic Preservation Office stating that the proposed rehabilitation work does not constitute an encroachment on the building. Chairwoman Sageser said this is the part of the process where bid documents are prepared and the bidding process is outlined. Several committee members cited local contractors who have already expressed an interest in receiving bid documents. Chairwoman Sageser said she is already working on a phase two grant for basement work and prepping for the addition. Ms. Sullivan inquired what type of prepping; one type of prepping is an archeology study- artifacts, a record of past archeological digs performed by the school, and lists- if any- of artifacts previously removed from the site. Mr. Harding suggested that an archeological study may also include a sweep of the property by ground penetrating radar.

Chairwoman Sageser mentioned that the phase two grant will work in synch with the first phase grant work being done now. We also have to keep the SHPO informed along the way. The project architect should begin working on basement drawings, and the proposal could be on the Committee's November agenda for consideration. If we can have the drawings done by December / January, the SHPO might review them in one month which puts us into February / March to be able to put the work up to bid. Chairwoman Sageser said she is now working on preparing the six month grant report.

2. Design Awards

Chairwoman Sageser said she worked within the budget and ordered five design awards which turned out to be about \$150 per award including shipping. A discussion ensued over the status of potential candidates.

3. Cavalier / Dippolito Farmstead

Chairwoman Sageser told the Committee that she has still not received a reply from Mr. Dippolito. Ms. McGovern suggested writing a letter. Vice Chairwoman Floyd stressed the importance of keeping in communication with the owner.

4. Larison/Dubois Production

Ron O'Reilly was not present to provide the Committee with an update. Mr. O'Riley and Mr. Davidson were planning on visiting the high school to see if the auditorium would be suitable for the production. Chairwoman Sageser is looking for dollar figures from Mr. O'Riley. Ms. Sullivan said she would reach out to Mr. Riley. February 23, 2014, is appearing to be the best date to hold the production.

5. Children's Programs

Ms. McGovern, Ms. Sullivan, and Ms. Serafin met as a subcommittee and discussed how to interest middle school students in local history, such as hosting essay or poster contests. Ms. McGovern distributed a

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handout called the “C.W. Larison Student Challenge”. East Amwell students grades 4-6, and separately grades 7-8 will be asked to contribute essays and drawings about Cornelius Larison. There would be a \$50 award and the five best pictures and essays would be displayed as part of the Larison showcase in the municipal building. The handout further went on to describe the different challenges for the two student populations.

A discussion ensued over obtaining an appropriate resource directory since it is typically difficult researching local history online. Teachers would appreciate a bibliography available from the county library. Vice Chairwoman Floyd suggested that those present read the concept and return comments back to Ms. McGovern via email. Ms. McGovern at this time just wanted assurance that the Committee was comfortable with the overall idea and some of the specifics- i.e. a 500 word essay, and a 40-50 word caption to accompany the pictures. Those present expressed their support of a children’s essay contest and the concept plan submitted by Ms. McGovern.

6. Office / Computer Filing and Organization

Ms. Sullivan reported that she started going through files, she had a small list of items she wanted the Committee’s blessing to dispose of: an audio tape of a Committee meeting from 2/22/2008, student drawn posters from the mid 1990’s, and some 1976 Bicentennial Programs. Mr. Bauman agreed to dispose of the audio tape and the posters’ Vice Chairwoman Floyd suggested returning the remaining paperwork so that it can become part of what are most likely large files.

Vice Chairwoman Floyd informed the Committee that she is leaving two donations for the collections: 1) a copy of Northeast Historical Archeology Spring 1977, Vol. 6 which contains excerpts about Ringoes and pottery; and 2) a book titled “Linseed Oil Mills in New Jersey 1732-1955”. On pages 85 and 87 of the book the Amwell Oil Mill and Snyder Oil Mill are mentioned. The first donation was given to Vice Chairwoman Floyd as she attended a grant writing conference, and the Linseed Oil book was recently released from a collection.

7. Mapping

Mr. Harding reported that he is moving right along, some of the work has developed into additional projects. Mr. Harding discovered a similar map created in 1967 by the Hunterdon Historical Society.

Adjournment

A motion by Vice Chairwoman Floyd, seconded by Ms. Sullivan to adjourn was unanimously approved by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2013, at 7:30 PM in the East Amwell Municipal Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Scott Bauman

Scott Bauman, Recording Secretary
November 3, 2013

MOTION TO APPROVE: David Harding

MOTION SECONDED BY: Jennifer Floyd

APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE: December 18, 2013

ABSTAINED FROM VOTING: Will Harrison, Paul Sterchele, Mary Van Horn