

**MAY 21, 2014, 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 7:35 PM by Chairwoman Barbara Sageser. Clerk Terri Stahl 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 23, 2014, 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 on May 16, 2014.”

ROLL CALL 5/21/14

Committee Member (term expires)	1/15/14	2/19/14	3/19/14	4/16/14	5/21/14	6/18/14	7/16/14	8/20/14	9/17/14	10/15/14	11/19/14	12/17/14
Jim Davidson (12/31/17)		7:45		X								
Jennifer Floyd (12/31/14)		X		X								
Frances Gavigan (12/31/16)	X				7:55							
Will Harrison, alt #1 (12/31/14)	X	X	X	X								
Suzanne Koeniger, alt #2 (12/31/14)	n/a	n/a	X	X	X							
Barbara Sageser (12/31/16)	X	X	X	X	X							
Pauline Serafin (12/31/16)	X	7:43	X	X	X							
Paul Sterchele (12/31/14)		X		X	X							
Peg Sullivan (12/31/14)	X			X	X							
Mary Van Horn (12/31/15)		X			X							
vacant (12/31/14)												
vacant Alt #3 (12/31/14)												

Others present: Township Committee Liaison Charles Van Horn, Clerk Terri Stahl, and member of public Ruth Sigal

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

At this time, there were no members of the public present.

PRESENTATION OF APRIL 16, 2014, MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Serafin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Sullivan to approve the April 16, 2014, minutes with minor corrections. Ms. Sullivan asked about the minutes, noting that two awards were made last month for the history contest, and there were additional entries to be considered. Ms. Sageser suggested letting the minutes stand and consider an additional award. The motion was approved unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Children’s Program- Dr. Cornelius Larison Art and Essay Student Challenge: Ms. Sullivan explained that there were entries after the fact and not received in time. She displayed a number of drawings with paragraphs for review. Ms. Sageser explained that the drawings were in a different department at the township building and not available to Ms. Sullivan in time. Ms. Sullivan commented on making her directions to the school more expansive in future contests, e.g., providing perhaps 250 word essays, etc.; she explained the criteria given to 4-7th grade classes this year. All members agreed that the drawing and essay from Kathleen White was their choice. Motion by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Serafin, and carried unanimously to chose Kathleen White’s submission and award her the \$50 gift card.

Some discussion took place about the purchase of a \$50 gift card for each winner; Mr. Matheny will be asked about how this might be done, with members noting differences in activation fees from various vendors, e.g., Shoprite, Triple AAA, PNC.

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Ms. Sullivan will advise the school about the winners, and they will be asked to attend the next Historic Preservation Committee meeting for a photo opportunity. The drawings will be displayed at the Township building.

Clawson Park Rehabilitation Update: Ms. Sageser explained that the architect's specifications are at the attorney's office for approval. Ms. Sageser also spoke about the second grant for the basement; she sent the drawings to everyone for comment and received no response. She asked members to look at them again and she would proceed with the project authorization report through the NJ State Historic Preservation Office, which is the next step. Ms. Sageser will speak with Mr. Pickell about this.

Ms. Serafin learned the name of a family member, Richard Clawson, who lives in the Trenton area. She sent him a letter asking for information, inviting him to a Committee meeting, and explaining the purpose of the request, i.e., to get pictures, information, etc. to preserve the home. Mr. Harrison was also reaching out to the Perkovich family in the same manner.

Historic Inventory Review Update: Ms. Gavigan, arriving at the meeting at this time, explained computer issues she was having. Ms. Sageser stated that she now has free time to assist on this project, and Ms. Gavigan spoke about putting the software on a second computer to continue the work.

East Amwell Historical Society (EAHS) Update: Mr. Sterchele explained that the Society had a recent meeting with new officers appointed. They are focusing on cemetery tours on June 21 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., and David Harding is preparing press releases. Ms. Serafin is the contact for reservations, which are coming in.

Ms. Serafin detailed upcoming events for 2014, including the cemetery tours on June 21; a Ringoes walking tour on September 20 (rain date September 21); an audience participation ghost talk on October 24 at the municipal building; and a Christmas house tour on December 7, ending up at the Unionville Vineyards. It was further explained that the EAHS will be focusing on one event at a time and that sponsors will be recognized in brochures for all events.

Ms. Van Horn asked if the Society was fund raising; Ms. Serafin explained the costs for the cemetery tour at \$15/per person; the bus cost at \$285; expenses for the brochure, which David Harding and Jim Davidson are preparing; etc. Press releases will be prepared for upcoming events separately.

Nomination for Hunterdon County Planning/Cultural and Heritage Commission Award: Ms. Sageser added this item to the agenda, stating that she would be preparing the nomination of the Sylvia Dubois presentation. She will be nominating the EAHS and Ron O'Reilly, and she provided the Cultural and Heritage Commission with information on Mr. O'Reilly and Mr. Davidson. There will be a project narrative and clips of the program for submittal.

Scheduling of Quick Collection Work: Ms. Sageser noted that she has some free time, and Ms. Koeniger also is interested in assisting with this project. Mr. Harrison may also be involved with the work.

Ringoes Committee Update: Mr. Harrison is attending a Planning Board public meeting, which is now in session. Ms. Sageser spoke about an agenda for the meeting and materials distributed, including a map of the area. Meetings were to include breakout discussions with residents about the village area, and there were about 25 people at the meeting this past Saturday.

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Ms. Sageser said that many of the attendees at the Saturday meeting spoke about building maintenance, traffic, ordinances for tax abatements, etc. Another idea was to have residents ban together in the community to maintain some of the properties, particularly exterior work. Using the slate harvested from the recent County sidewalk project for sidewalks at historic homes or at Clawson Park was also mentioned.

Committee members spoke about some of the abandoned or deteriorated properties in the village area, with specific properties mentioned. Ms. Gavigan provided specific information on one property owner of multiple properties in the village, which were in need of repair. Comments were also made about heavy trucks utilizing Larison Lane, and some members offered their opinion on how to divert the traffic.

NEW BUSINESS

DiGioia Zoning Board Variance, Block 25, Lot 7.19: Committee members reviewed the site plan for the property at the corner of Back Brook and Van Lieus Road for a variance to construct a dwelling. Ms. Gavigan spoke about the floodplains on and the location of the property, which is not in a historic area. Motion by Ms. Gavigan, seconded by Ms. Van Horn, and carried unanimously to notify the Board of Adjustment that there is no relevance to the historic element, and no comments were necessary.

Revised Zoning Board Application for New Market Farm, Block 41, Lot 17.02: Ruth Sigal, owner of the property, was present during this review.

Ms. Sageser explained that the Committee had reviewed this property in the past, and there were revisions to the application, including some changes to the square footage. Mr. C. Van Horn commented that it was not in a historical district. Ms. Sageser said that the Committee appreciated the opportunity to be able to comment on applications from a historic perspective, and Ms. Gavigan commented on her knowledge of why applications are sent to this committee. Motion by Ms. Gavigan, seconded by Ms. M. Van Horn that there was no relevance to the historic element, and no comments were necessary.

Peacock's Update: Ms. Sageser believed that architect Chris Pickell was contacted by the owner regarding rebuilding. There is a question of whether the retail portion of the building will continue; there are Board of Health issues about the need to go to the state for waivers of over 2,000 gpd flow and septic fields located under the pipes – there may be economic issues involved. Further comments were made, including discussion on the number of apartments, the owner living in another state, the size of the property, location in the Wertsville Historic district, the long tradition of a business in the historic building, etc.

There was a consensus that a letter be sent from the Historic Preservation Committee to the Planning Board, the Board of Adjustment, and the NJ DEP (for permitting) that historically, there is a long time tradition that there has been a retail business at the site; it is located in the Wertsville Historic District; there has always been a commercial component, including a post office at one time; it is a focal point of the community; there are visitors, including bicyclists, support the operation; it is also a part of the Township's agro-tourism. Jim Davidson and David Harding are also doing research on the property, which will be included in the letter.

CORRESPONDENCE / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Sageser mentioned a request for an update to the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage directory, which she completed.

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Ms. Gavigan spoke about attending a Hunterdon County Freeholders' Meeting when "mini-historian awards" were made. There was an East Amwell Township School winner, who did an essay on "1620 Lindbergh" – information will be obtained from the Hunterdon County Democrat and be reported in the VIP.

Ms. Gavigan reported that bridge work on Wertsville Road is postponed because of bidding issues.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Ms. Sigal said, "Thank you for doing your jobs," with no other comments.

The next meeting will be on June 18, at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Gavigan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Serafin, and unanimously approved by all to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Stahl, Clerk

MOTION TO APPROVE: _____

MOTION SECONDED BY: _____

APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE: _____