

**JUNE 18, 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. Secretary Sharon Brighthaupt 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.

ROLL CALL 6/18/14

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		X						
Frances Gavigan (12/31/16)	X				7:55	X						
Will Harrison, alt #1 (12/31/14)	X	X	X	X		X						
Suzanne Koeniger, alt #2 (12/31/14)	n/a	n/a	X	X	X	X						
Barbara Sageser (12/31/16)	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Pauline Serafin (12/31/16)	X	7:43	X	X	X	X						
Paul Sterchele (12/31/14)		X		X	X	X						
Peg Sullivan (12/31/14)	X			X	X							
Mary Van Horn (12/31/15)		X			X	7:40						
vacant (12/31/14)												
vacant Alt #3 (12/31/14)												

Others present: Committee Secretary Sharon Brighthaupt, Student winners and numerous Family Members

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

At this time, there were no members of the public present. Chairwoman Sageser asked if there were any comments on any non-agenda items. None were recognized. Motion to close was heard and seconded.

PRESENTATION OF May 21, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

Motion was made and seconded to approve the May 21, 2014 minutes.

LARISON STUDENT CHALLENGE AWARD PRESENTATION

Chairwoman Barbara Sageser began to address the group; she said as part of our historical outreach we had the contest. She was pleased with the response and the quality of the responses and happy to see the winners were present. She recognized Jim Davidson as our resident historian, asking him to speak to the guests about the history of East Amwell. He asked for the winners to raise their hands and be recognized, he congratulated them. He spoke to the guests about the importance of history. He suggested they start by learning about their own family history. For example in 1816 just across the highway on Wertzville Road, Richard Wyckoff was found murdered with an ax in his head. Just up the road across from Mom’s deli General Washington visited Lafayette, and during the American Revolution Lafayette became ill and he stayed in the house for two weeks. And to this day there is a military ghost who walks through the house. Numerous generations have seen him walking in his uniform down the stairs. Dr. Larison, probably the most famous educator to live in East Amwell had a school at the Harvest Moon Inn. In 1932 the most famous aviator in America had his 20 month old baby kidnapped from Lindbergh Road. There is history everywhere, and what you need to do is take an interest as you go through life. A good way to start is by doing some genealogy and learning some family history.

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Chairwoman Sageser began the presentation by mentioning some business to be completed by the parents after the presentations are made. They will need to sign some paperwork. We have first a picture of the Larison Mansion with a description of the work of Dr. Larison by Kathleen White. Pause for photos.

Second we have a perspective of the home by Natalia Zamora. Pause for photos.

Third we have a pencil sketch by Riley Stalitana. Pause for photos.

More photos. If anyone has any good photos please send them to us if there is a good one we will provide it to the paper. Applause.

Students were asked to leave their art pieces with the committee to be displayed and at a later date the pieces will be returned to the students. They all agreed.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATE

1. Passed around the brochure of Cemetery tour “Grave Matters I” – next year will be Grave Matters II
2. Historical Society Meeting voted to buy a display case for the lobby. Paul will help move it on Sunday.
3. Picked six pictures from the Quick collection to be displayed over the counter in the lobby. We will need other things for the display case.

CLAWSON HOUSE

Chairwoman Sageser said she had been informed the construction contract was approved to go forward and has been through legal review two times. Frances Gavigan said it is in the budget. Chairwoman Sageser said there is interest in having the library relocated to the Clawson House.

1. It is a Green Acres Project and changes will not likely be allowed. There was once talk about a much larger library being located on the fairgrounds on Green Acres property which was not allowed.
2. Another concern is the size; it will not accommodate a library.
3. Books may be too heavy. It is not really structured for books. Perhaps with an addition it might work.

For now we should move ahead and save the building. There are many bureaucratic hurdles, and we are not finished yet. There is also a concern that the county has given us money and the township has agreed to use the money for the Clawson contract. We need to move ahead to show good faith. We don't know yet what we can add to the property. We have a request for authorization from the State for the project. We have done it for the exterior, but we have not done it for the addition. We do know that anything that we do has to be approved in advance by them. Taking into consideration all of these concerns, what is the will of the committee?

Frances Gavigan asked what is the square footage of the lot and the house. Would there even be enough space? Chairwoman Sageser explained this is just a proposal, and it is not even clear that there is interest in going in this direction. Due to the difficulty to get anything done with the Clawson House, she is very hesitant to bring anything more into the mix.

Jim Davidson said it does not make sense to repurpose at this time, from day one it was for the township to be used by the historical society. It was never designed to be a library. After five years of working with this just because one person thinks there should be a library there, he does not think so. Others on the committee agree. Chairwoman Sageser said we had an architect, we had a master plan, and it was our understanding of what the township wanted.

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Frances Gavigan said there could be some space on the property sometime in the future and we would have to deal with Green Acres. Rebuilding one of the barns might be a place for the future. She believes there could be a place in the park where the library could be relocated and they could get funding from the county.

Chairwoman Sageser said these are all interesting options, but right now in order to get the Green Acres Funds it would stay in the framework of the township. There was once a plan for a care taker of the house to watch over the park and the building.

Jennifer Floyd said she believes the barn would be more suited as a library. The shape of the building would be the proper shape for a library. Structurally it would seem to be more well-suited.

There was further discussion about the capacity of the septic system and that it would not be suitable to accommodate library traffic. As a house with occasional public meetings is quite different than regular daily use as a public library. There are a number of reasons why the idea of including a library will not fly.

Will Harrison went on to say, the county will not likely put a branch of the county library on township property. When Clawson donated the property there were many restrictions. From a legal perspective we are dead in the water for a library on this property. We should continue to look for another venue for the library. That should not be dropped. The Clawson Park is being used and it is working well. We as a committee should be prepared with a response as to the many hurdles. We need talking points so when we are asked for the library we have a response. Very sincere members of the public come up with these ideas and we should show them the respect they deserve by helping them understand why it just would not work. It would work for a museum type of venue.

Chairwoman Sageser asked who can put together a sub committee

Jennifer Floyd believes it should be stated simply. It is a Township facility and there are deed restrictions. If there are restrictions, it should not need further explanation.

Frances Gavigan will talk to the county regarding what their restrictions might be. She believes they are in a long term contract with the library. There are perfectly good lots available in the village to be used as a library. For one the old library is still available. Although it appears that space is exceeding the capacity, the cars on the parking lot appear to be a clear indication.

Chairwoman Sageser again asked for someone to put together thoughts and write them down for the committee. Will Harrison and Frances Gavigan discussed preparing the talking points.

Chairwoman Sageser asked when is the cutoff, Will Harrison responded he believes it to be about 6-8 weeks, they are waiting for information to be put together in a report. Possibly in the fall. People want to see results. Chairwoman Sageser thanked Will Harrison and Frances Gavigan for taking on the project of writing down the talking points.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CLAWSON PARK REHABILITATION UPDATE

Chairwoman Sageser said the architect has responded twice. It is now with the township lawyer and she has been told they are moving ahead. Ms. Sageser is still working on getting the drawings for the second grant. 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. She told him to complete the drawings with the

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specifications. We now need a dry basement to prepare for the next phase. She does not want to bring attention to the addition. She believes it is ok as is. Jennifer Floyd believes it was briefly discussed during the walk through phase. She believes it was agreed anything modern like the bathroom or the kitchen would be in the addition. She thinks that is what they wanted to hear and were satisfied. They were a little concerned with the grading on the property. Ms Sageser commented that we know there used to be a driveway on the downhill side of the property which has been filled in. They have essentially already given us approval to drain away from the windows, and that was an archaeological question.

HISTORIC INVENTORY REVIEW UPDATE

Frances Gavigan indicates there is no report. She has been sick and her computer is not working. Chairwoman Sageser will meet with Frances Gavigan on Monday after 10:30 AM or 11 AM. Frances Gavigan will come to Barbara Sageser's location.

QUICK COLLECTION

Chairwoman Sageser has obtained possible times for working on the Quick Collection. Who is interested in working on the collection? Mary Van Horn? Jim Davidson said we need some items from the collection for the display case in the lobby in the next week. We will need to have some things to display. Like post cards, Ed Quick had a collection of conductor hats from Ringoes. There are tons of things in the collection that would be easy to display, who will volunteer? Will, Barbara, Sue, Mary. . . Will Harrison suggested there should be a card with an explanation of what it is that is being displayed. If we have any objects that we can't identify we could ask if anyone knows what it is.

Jennifer Floyd cautioned not to keep too many things in the display for too long, or they may be damaged from the light coming in the windows. It was suggested the exhibit should be changed every two months, changing out the objects until all have been displayed.

COMMUNITY DAY – JUNE 21, 2014

Jim Davidson is supposed to be giving Terri Stahl some history books to be sold at the display on the fair grounds. It is the same day as the cemetery walk.

Chairwoman Sageser suggested if we had any of the brochures they would be a nice item for the Community Day celebration. We don't have any at this time. There was a small error that needs to be corrected and then it would be ready for printing. The township finally has a budget, and there have not been any cuts as far as she is aware. The price for printing the brochure depends on how many we have printed. It is 13 pages and expected to cost \$500 for 400 copies. Approximately 80 would be needed for the walking tour. The printer suggested it should be done on heavy stock.

Other quotes should be obtained from:

- Triangle
- Master Graphics
- Printech

OTHER PROGRAMS

Ms Sageser asked, what other programs should we be planning for during the remainder of the year?

Already spent from the budget:

- \$150 for the student challenge
- \$500 for the brochure (anticipated)

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East Amwell Bus Tour Question:

Do it or let the Historical Society do it and charge and make some money for the projects?

The Historical Society will do bus tours.

Frances Gavigan suggested the Ringoes Calendar. Should it be funded by the committee budget or perhaps selling ads? She will reach out to the county to see if they will fund a calendar.

Jim Davidson said if the township does the calendar they will sell them and recoup the money. Would we sell, or just give them away. We could sell ads. He suggested Barbara Sageser contact the township committee and ask for them to fund it. Or should we sell ads? How should it be distributed? Mailing is very expensive. It should be put in places for people to pick them up, like the VIP. How many would we need? How much would it cost to do it, and then we should back our way into how much money we would need to make on the ads to cover the costs. Do we need 500 for 1500 households in the township?

Frances Gavigan suggested we should plan for a reprint. She said the county will print things for the municipalities and we may not need a budget. She suggested it should be an 18 month calendar.

Chairwoman Sageser said that is a good idea. She will discuss it with the mayor to see if there is interest.

Chairwoman Sageser asked, who will head up this project?

Jennifer Floyd left the meeting at 8:35 PM.

Mary Van Horn said; add this to the top for next month. It needs to be done by November 1st or the end of September at the very latest. Frances Gavigan and Mary Van Horn will work on this calendar project.

As we look through the Quick collection, we will keep an eye out for old calendars to use as models for what we want to include.

We should move forward with the Pamphlet printing. We need to obtain a PO from the township and then the printer should provide us with an updated invoice for the printing. It will need to be sent from Beth Rice to the printer so he gets the best copy possible.

Chairwoman Sageser commented that we want this to be the gold standard. Pauline Serefin made a motion to approve, seconded by Paul Sterchele.

Chairwoman Sageser said we are all aware that Peacocks is having difficulty. The township is working with the owner to rebuild. The owner wants something different. He has a variance and now he has lost interest. He wants to modernize the site, he does not want to have retail, he would rather have another apartment there. They wanted to help him, but they had to tell him that he does not have the right to do the things he wants to do. The issues are complicated. In the meantime she sent a letter, using the letter SHPO sent to the committee as an example. She read the letter to the committee. It is our role to advise and review. She believes it was in the best interest of the committee to send the letter, so she did so. It is the responsibility of the committee to review and comment.

NEW BUSINESS

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CORRESPONDENCE

The next meeting will be on July 16, 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 9 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Brighthaupt, Secretary