

**JULY 16, 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 7/16/14

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			X					
Jennifer Floyd (12/31/14)		X		X		X						
Frances Gavigan (12/31/16)	X				7:55	X	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	X					
Pauline Serafin (12/31/16)	X	7:43	X	X	X	X	8:40					
Paul Sterchele (12/31/14)		X		X	X	X	X					
Peg Sullivan (12/31/14)	X			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, Charles Van Horn, representing the Township Committee

Chairwoman Sageser asked for a motion to open to the public, it was moved and seconded. At this time, Charles Van Horn was recognized as the liaison representing the township committee. It was also noted that Mr. Van Horn could be included in the roll call.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chairwoman Sageser asked for a motion to open to the public, it was moved and seconded. At this time, Charles Van Horn commented, as you know we are working to try to get a library back to the Ringoes area. Where that would be, is a good question, it is a long term project. He stated that there is a meeting planned with a representative of the Freeholders, two members of the township committee and a couple of interested residents have met with the library director. Mr. Van Horn thinks it would be a smart move to bring it back, we do know it is underutilized at its present location. The library director has a little concern with this underutilization.

Peg Sullivan asked if the township has considered seeking funding for the library project. Mr. Van Horn replied they have looked for funding. The long range plans are to find a piece of land to build on, or maybe with an existing house that could be used. But it would take the Freeholders to decide, yes they would fund the building and a library, library trustees were interested, but they don’t control the funding. Ms. Sullivan mentioned the rent they are now paying at the Post Office is \$13/sq.ft. Ms. Gavigan said there is currently a five year lease with approximately four years left in which the work can be done to find a place for the library.

Chairwoman Sageser said it was very nice having the library available, especially the East Amwell section where you could go and look up your house in the county master plan, or who lived in your house during the revolution. We loved that, and we were thinking about trying to establish an East Amwell file there. Working with them we could save things that were germane to the town, in the same way that Ed Quick did, but by the time we started

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discussing it was too late. Mr. Van Horn commented that the bids are out on the exterior of the Clawson House and the windows and siding. It took quite a while to get everyone on board. It is an historical building and requires a different kind of approach for the bidding process. Money is available, so we will wait to see what comes in now. That would improve the exterior look of the property, and would show the township that progress is being made.

Chairwoman Sageser said this is a good time to move on to the subject of the Clawson House. We are working with the architect on the next phase which is the basement. So we can keep the water out and prevent development of a mold problem in the building. The architect has submitted drawings to us, we have reviewed them and we are trying to be sure we have covered all the bases. The architect is still developing some of the language and details. The current drawing he has shows a beam that does not appear to be thoroughly supported and he wants to do a better job of ensuring more support under them. Any digging we do may trigger archaeological work. We just want to be sure we understand everything and move forward from there. The County gave us a second grant and the grant was to be used for the basement. At that time, Will, Dave, the architect and myself met. Will suggested we should put in a sump pump and a drain because that area of the house has a high water table. He is from that area, so he is very aware of it so that would add to the costs. At any rate, she is pleased that it is moving forward. Dart has special expertise in dealing with these processes and he has done many large projects, so she is confident that we will work it out. Even if there are some glitches in the process she is confident we will be successful.

Chairwoman Sageser requested a motion to close to the public. A motion was made by Frances Gavigan and seconded by Paul Sterchele. All in favor of closing to the public.

PRESENTATION OF June 18, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

Motion was made and seconded to approve the June 18, 2014 minutes. Chairwoman Sageser noted the minutes are approved as presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
CALENDAR PROJECT UPDATE

Frances Gavigan reviewed the plan to revive the calendar that used to go out to the public, including various pictures, historic notes, etc. She reached out to the Freeholders and had a discussion with their graphic artist and she has put together a mock calendar, including November, December of this year. All of next year and maybe January of the following year. We would get the most mileage out of the calendar. Some of the images were picked off the website and from the Quick collection. Some were pictures from our inventory. Some of the pictures were three different views of Peacock's before the fire that could be used for other purposes if anybody finds them useful down the line. She obtained quotes for black and white, or two-color, typical calendar similar to the calendar given out by the election office. Basically, black and white on paper we could get 600 bound (32 pages), reducing by units of four the price can be reduced somewhat. For 600 it was \$649, that would be saddle stitched, if we decide on full color photos the cost increases to a little over \$2000. Rutgers does a kind of calendar that is spiral bound. We could get that with a combination of color photos and the less expensive black and white photos and the price would be \$2371. Email thread and bids have been forwarded to Chairwoman Sageser. They can do the printing at any time we are able to get the money. Perhaps we can ask the Society for some funding, or if there is a way to accept donations from various township people for such a project. She does not know if donations would be legal, but past discussions indicate we are not allowed to charge for anything.

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Pauline Serafin commented that she could explain, she believes the last year we did calendars she believes each picture (of a business) appearing in the calendar would pay for advertising and make a donation toward the calendar.

Frances Gavigan responded, we could try. I have a lot of nice pictures of the railroad, thanks to the solar farm application. If we could be blessed and get the extra money I think that people would like color. The other option to decide is if we want to go forward with it, we have the Quick collection photographs. We also have many photos from our inventory, many of the pictures in the mock-up are of the Prall House, Jamie Atkinson.

Jim Davidson commented the first thing has to be the finances. He questioned, are there only 600 households in East Amwell? The price of \$1 per calendar is not bad.

Pauline Serafin asked of the County would subsidize. Frances Gavigan responded that the County will subsidize to the extent that they will print it for cost of doing it through the County. It is probably 25% of what you would get from outside printers.

Jim Davidson mentioned that if there is any money left in the mini grant program of Cultural and Heritage, he might be able to get up to \$200 toward the project. Did the other calendars have all the township meeting dates? Frances Gavigan responded she is doing a mock-up and she will be able to do the dates. Jim Davidson asked, do you think if we use this to advertise all the different township meetings, recycling dates, etc. If we come up with \$200, and we are able to get some ads or sponsors, the big question is, how do you determine who gets one of the calendars. Will it be first come, first served? Frances Gavigan responded that we could scale up, the 600 was used as an example to get pricing. Frances Gavigan commented that color would be wonderful. Chairwoman Sageser said she thinks it would be better to back off doing color for this, as we have limited resources. Although the Society took over the bus tours, as they could charge for it and we could not. But it frees us up to do a project like the calendar.

Peg Sullivan commented that there is something about a black and white photo that speaks to history.

Chairwoman Sageser said a question for Jennifer Floyd is about the Quick collection watermark on the photo on the website. Additionally, we have made copies, and it took a lot of memory to do them. Frances Gavigan mentioned that she was unable to email the document due to its size. She saved it as a PDF to reduce the size and was able to transmit. She mentioned she used photos from the Website as she did not know if we are allowed to use others, or if there are restrictions. Chairwoman Sageser thanked Frances Gavigan for the very comprehensive work she did.

Jim Davidson suggested Chairwoman Sageser talk to the Township to determine if they are willing to subsidize the project. If they say they will pay half, then we can get some grants and advertising it won't be such a big deal.

Chairwoman Sageser said the other thing we have going on at this time is the brochure, and we could not do both with the budget available. Jim Davidson commented that Chairwoman Sageser is saying that we would have to do it with grants, advertising, and the township. She responded that she is not necessarily saying that, we have about \$1300. We spent \$150 on the student challenge, plus the cost to get the gift card, approximately \$160. Then we had \$40 for the award presentation dinner. The membership to the AALSH is \$115.

Jim Davidson suggested we not count on the budget and we go to the Township, and he will check Cultural and Heritage next week. Then within two or three weeks we should know if we can get the funding. Chairwoman Sageser asked if he would like to make a motion to that affect? Peg Sullivan asked if this project could be

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assumed by the Historical Society as a fund raiser? Jim Davidson responded, if they did, the calendar would definitely be sold. Frances Gavigan commented that if the Township Committee supported doing it, she does not know if Shared Services would go along with doing it, but they might. She will ask. There is no doubt if it comes through the Township she has the prices and they would hold.

1. Do the mock up
2. Follow up with the County
3. Ask our Liaison to talk to the Township Committee
4. Historical Society

Jim Davidson asked if the Historical Society takes the project and they want to charge for the calendar, who would do the selling? Peg Sullivan suggested we just place them around the town in local businesses where we are allowed and they will sell them for us.

Jim Davison made a motion that we check with Cultural and Heritage, Historical Society, and the Township and report back at the next meeting and then make a decision as to where we are going with this project. Peg Sullivan seconded the motion.

Chairwoman Segeser said the motion has been made and seconded that we investigate all funding possibilities with the County and the Township and bring it up again at the next meeting. All in favor by a show of hands.

He suggested we not go further with the mock-up until we determine if we have money to fund the project.

EAST AMWELL HISTORIC SOCIETY UPDATE

Chairwoman Sageser recognized the next item to be the Historic society Update. Jim Davidson mentioned the items recently prepared for the display in the lobby. He made informational cards for the display and recognized Pauline Serafin for preparing a sign with upcoming events to be placed on top of the display.

Jim Davison reported since the last meeting they had the cemetery tour which went very well. The walking tour is coming up, the ghost talk and then the house tour. That is it for this year.

Chairwoman Sageser mentioned that she thinks the display case looks wonderful. We have the Quick collection back in the building.

Jim Davison mentioned he did not see it on the list for new business, but he guesses we are going ahead with the walking group tour brochure. He wanted to mention that Cultural and Heritage has a manned table at the upcoming fair, and if the brochure gets approved it can be put on the table for visitors. Also, there are about 300 names on the email list for the Historical Society. He could email an announcement about the availability of the brochure to the recipients on the email list.

Chairwoman Sageser commented that she thinks we have voted on doing it, and she has received the information and the voucher. She will prepare a requisition form for the printing. It is going to be a really nice brochure with high quality pictures and really nice stock. She commented she thinks it was a good move to get the graphic artist involved and it is a very professional job. We will have 400 copies of the brochure.

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QUICK COLLECTION WORK

Will, Suzanne and Chairwoman Sageser worked on getting the collection out of the old packing boxes and into the better boxes made for storing this type of material. We have a limited number of acid free archival boxes which has been exhausted. We have been using bankers boxes to date, which are discards from the township when they destroy old records. A considerable amount was completed. As we are working through the project as we find Larison or Quick things we are separating them as the archivist had recommended this should be done in her report. This past month Will and I met again and since we were out of bankers boxes we decided to write on the outside of the boxes what is contained in the boxes. We started at the top left and numbered the boxes in order to give a description, we completed about seven. The first box had loose leaf archival sheets containing old photos of East Amwell. Will found a document of indenture in one of the Quick boxes from 1863, which was many pages long and very fragile. We moved it into the mylar along with a very old deed to protect it in the archival material. We placed them in an archival box for protection. We now need to determine how many archival boxes we need and want to order before Jennifer leaves, so she can get them ordered. The problem is that these boxes have been worked on for two years and everything is stacked high. We are going to continue working.

Jim Davidson thinks there are archival boxes stashed someplace, as we have been buying them for the last ten years every year and it seems to him there should be some still around. Chairwoman Sageser suggested there may be some large containers that have archival boxes stored in them, they should be checked to be sure what is in them as there are lids, but no bottoms to be found. The more recent items are being placed in the bankers boxes and the more fragile things are in the archival boxes.

COUNTY CULTURAL AWARDS NOMINATION

Jim Davidson completed the nomination for the Silvia Dubois dramatization as the president of the Historical Society . He suggested we nominate the Ringoes walking tour pamphlet. The deadline for nominations is July 18, 2014. Frances Gavigan suggested a link be placed on the Website to the video, Jim said the video contains offensive language making it inappropriate for general viewing on HCTV.

Frances Gavigan volunteered to nominate the pamphlet. She just needs someone to send her a copy of the brochure by email.

HISTORIC INVENTORY REVIEW UPDATE

Frances Gavigan has had computer problems, update is not possible at this time. She does have the files saved in other locations and will work toward recovering the documents on her computer.

She does have photos she took when the Clawson House was toured and she is offering them for an upcoming update to the county. She will provide them to the Chairwoman for archiving purposes.

Oaths of office presented by the Secretary, to be signed by those in attendance, others will be returned to Terri Stahl.

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NEW BUSINESS

Oaths of office presented by the Secretary, to be signed by those in attendance, others will be returned to Terri Stahl.

There was some conversation about Peacock's and the Library relocation. Chairwoman Sageser said it is not appropriate for this committee to find a location for the library.

CORRESPONDENCE

Brochure from Rutgers given to Jim Davidson. Other correspondence was handed off to Frances Gavigan.

The next meeting will be on August 20, at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Davidson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Sullivan, and unanimously approved by all to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Brighthaupt, Secretary

MOTION TO APPROVE: _____

MOTION SECONDED BY: _____

APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE: _____