

**SEPTEMBER 17, 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 9/17/14

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	X				
Frances Gavigan (12/31/16)	X				7:55	X	X	X	7:45			
Will Harrison, alt #1 (12/31/14)	X	X	X	X		X		X	X			
Suzanne Koeniger, alt #2 (12/31/14)	n/a	n/a	X	X	X	X			X			
Barbara Sageser (12/31/16)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Pauline Serafin (12/31/16)	X	7:43	X	X	X	X	8:40		X			
Paul Sterchele (12/31/14)		X		X	X	X	X		X			
Peg Sullivan (12/31/14)	X			X	X		X	X	X			
Mary Van Horn (12/31/15)		X			X	7:40		X	X			
vacant (12/31/14)												
vacant Alt #3 (12/31/14)												

Others present: Committee Secretary Sharon Brighthaupt

Chairwoman Sageser asked for a motion to open to the public, it was moved and seconded.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

It was noted there were no members of the public present at this time.

PRESENTATION OF AUGUST 20, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

It was noted there was a typo in the third paragraph of the second page of the minutes, an extra letter. With the correction being made, a motion was made by Will Harrison and seconded by Barbara Sageser to approve the August 20, 2014 minutes. Chairwoman Sageser noted the minutes are approved with the correction as noted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
CALENDAR

Will Harrison reported there will be another meeting of the sub-committee tomorrow night, September 18, 2014. He went on to say there will be a lot more to report to the meeting. None of the members of the subcommittee have experience doing a calendar, so they are all trying to find resources to help expedite the project. Once we have done one and we have a template it will be easier. Most of the discussion was around how we should charge for the ads, where the ads should be placed, there were differences of opinion in this area. So they consulted with Sue Posselt of the VIP for advice regarding charging. At this time it is thought that the size of ads in the VIP are identical, and all are lined up neatly. We expect to be able to answer all these questions by the end of the meeting tomorrow night. We will be utilizing photos from the Quick collection, or any archive photos we have available.

Chairwoman Sageser commented that it has been suggested the Township Administrator be informed, since we will be selling ads, just to be sure they are on-board. She did that and he said he thinks it is a great idea. He

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suggested it would also be a good idea to let the Township Committee Members know. Chairwoman Sageser brought him a sample of one of the calendars in her possession and though it was too late for him to add it to the agenda for the Township Committee Meeting, he thought he would be able to bring it up, and he did. He answered their questions and she was told it was very successfully received.

EAST AMWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATE

Mary Van Horn of the Historical Society reported they will have the Historical Walk on Saturday, she reports it has been sold out for both the 10:00AM and 2:00PM sessions.

Jim Davidson is doing background work with the Grange to do the Power Point Paranormal Ghost Walk, and the holiday tour.

Chairwoman Sageser reports she has the remaining Walking Tour Pamphlets. She left some with the township, took some to the bank and she thinks Jim Davidson took a supply for the Walking Tour. If they are needed for the Walking Tour, she has some and will leave some at the township building.

CLAWSON HOUSE REHABILITATION UPDATE

Chairwoman Sageser stated that her husband is an architect and he has done project management in the past. Together they have been working with Chris Pickell to change the specification a little to make it clear that we are not looking for perfection in the way in which the siding will be attached. It is going to be attached to the old subtrait and we don't want them to think we are looking for perfection. He also spent some time on the window specs. He asked for unit prices on the windows, we are not sure which ones will need to be replaced and how many will be revamped. He also worked with Pickell to use an historical type of window acceptable to Historical Societies.

We are working toward getting a more informed bid this time. On the second bid we believe we will be able to negotiate. There will be a walk-thorough on Tuesday, September 22, 2014. Jennifer Floyd said she would contact bidders. Another contractor was interested, Frances Gavigan gave him a packet of material for placing a bid. It appeared he was not experienced in working with governmental regulations, but he may be interested.

Will Harrison commented the bidders may have anxiety after looking at the rehabilitation project due to the unknown added work that could come up as they get deeper into the project.

QUICK COLLECTION UPDATE

Chairwoman Sageser commented, at the last meeting she suggested we purchase a book *Organizing Archival Records . . . A Practical Method . . .* She spoke to Pam at the Municipal Office and she confirmed the Township does have Amazon Prime. It won't be necessary to do a PO, she will just work with Pam to do a screenshot of the page in Amazon and together they will get a req in place to get the book.

Action Item: Chairwoman Sageser will contact Terri Stahl to have a sub-committee meeting scheduled for the Quick Collection during the next two weeks.

HISTORIC INVENTORY REVIEW UPDATE

Frances Gavigan not being present at this time, Chairwoman Sageser reported they met on two occasions in the past few weeks and she came in on her own for three hours. The conclusion they came to is they now have a format to go forward. They have determined the problems and the major problem is that our inventory relates to both parcels called 17A. The tax map is based on 17.01. The tax map changes nomenclature after we did our inventory. Frances Gavigan arriving now Chairwoman Sageser brought her up to date on the unfinished business

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being discussed at the time of her arrival. She turned over the update to Frances Gavigan, who went on to say it is complicated, time consuming, and is not supported by any one definitive source. But can be done by tracking down tax records, construction files, tax maps and other sources being painstakingly reviewed to gather the data.

In the 80's and 90's a book was being done about stone houses. They went door to door and found there were other buildings that had not been accounted for previously. The buildings are spread across the land in the township, but don't fit into a hamlet. Chairwoman Sageser attended a talk being given by Dan Saunders at Echo Hill about rural historic districts. He said now not only hamlets will be considered as historic districts, they will also consider rural historic districts. For example you could do battlefields, or Indian sites could be included. It does not have to be an urban or village center. We know our buildings are old, so we decided to give them to Dennis Burtland who had worked with Ilona English in doing the historic buildings in Ringoes. We will ask him to do title searches for them, which can then be used as the basis for creating these historic districts. She had a large map of the historic districts, on which they had placed asterisks on the spots where the buildings were located and they discovered it was centered around the Wertsville Valley. They were given names, like Amwell Ridge, etc. There was some money in the budget and they voted to do the project. They came back with a loose leaf binder with approximately twenty properties. Many were from the same chain of title, and they all traced back to the same piece of property. It took him less time than he expected, so he did the remaining parcels. We then had one book with two groupings, part one and part two, containing the chains of title for the houses. The master map has been lost. We hope it will turn up in the future. We have the binder, and we wonder if these houses are part of the inventory. Some are and some are not. Pam made us two copies of the binder.

Chairwoman Sageser said we should also put out information about what it means to be historically designated. The property owner needs to know the designation does not mean they won't be able to do what they want with their own property. Only that we are trying to support people who would like to support history. As we pick up this project maybe we should consider an informational brochure for the public of East Amwell. Our hope is the State may have our information as it was given to them previously for the GIS. The maps at the State level are very thorough and accurate.

Action Items:

- Frances Gavigan will contact someone at the County to see if they have the information.
- Possible brochure of historic sites, educational and informational for East Amwell property owners, with Google Earth Map.

Chairwoman Sageser asked if the committee would like to support the idea of making a brochure for East Amwell property owners containing educational and informational historic maps. Mary Van Horn made the motion and Will Harrison seconded. All are in favor.

Will Harrison informed the group a report is soon forthcoming from the Ringoes Sub-committee. It is expected to be very informative. It is primarily surrounding the buildings, but what we learn from that will translate to the entire township. He does not believe changing a number on the speed limit signs alone will make a difference. If we want the speed limits lowered enforcement is important. We have to first be able to enforce the laws already in place. The report will give us leverage for improvement.

Chairwoman Sageser said we just need to keep moving forward and the slow progress will ultimately get things done. All the small projects will eventually come together and we will see the progress.

CORRESPONDENCE

National Trust for Historical Preservation Conference in Savannah – November 11-14, 2015

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NEW BUSINESS

Award dinner is coming up at Raspberry's, September 29, 2014. County Historian is retiring and Frances Gavigan would like to make a motion that either we as a committee, or we recommend that the township committee write a letter to thank Stephanie Stevens for her efforts. She worked on the Stone House and she also has a new local history book on farmers in Hunterdon, some of them known by us. Thanking her for her help and support over the years, lending her guidance and knowledge about historic properties, and various other projects. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Koeniger, all in favor.

ACTION ITEM:

- Who will volunteer to write the letter
- Frances Gavigan will work up a draft and share it with Chairwoman Sageser and Will Harrison requesting feedback.
- Jim Davidson may have some specifics to add to the letter

Chairwoman Sageser wanted to mention to the group that she and her husband went on a trip recently to a cider mill. A small group of people were showing it off and raising money. She believes it was owned by the town in which it was located. They had also been able to obtain grants for their projects. She inquired as to how they had obtained the grants. They explained that they formed a non-profit organization for applying for the grants. Since we can't apply for the grants as a township, it might be a possibility to follow this lead and look into forming a non-profit for the purpose of applying for grants. We should talk to the Historical Society to see if they could form the non-profit in their name.

Frances Gavigan said Peacock's has been held up by the County.

The next meeting will be October 15, at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Frances Gavigan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pauline Serafin seconded and it was unanimously approved by all to adjourn the meeting at 9:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/Sharon Brighthaupt, Secretary