

**MAY 20, 2015 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 7:30 PM by 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 December 18, 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 5/20/15

Committee Member (term expires)	1/21/15	2/18/15	3/18/15	4/15/15	5/20/15	6/17/15	7/15/15	8/19/15	9/16/15	10/21/15	11/18/15	12/16/15
Jim Davidson (12//31/17)	7:35	X			X							
Frances Gavigan (12/31/16)	X	X			X							
Will Harrison (12/31/17)	X	X	X	X	X							
Suzanne Koeniger (12/31/18)	X		X	X								
Barbara Sageser (12/31/16)	X	X	X	X	X							
Pauline Serafin (12/31/15)	X	X	X		X							
Paul Sterchele (12/31/18)	X	X		X	X							
Peg Sullivan (12/31/18)	X	X		X	X							
Mary Van Horn (12/31/15)		X	X		X							
Susan Berger (12/31/16)		X	X		X							
Debra Carney (12/31/15)		X		X								
Charles Van Horn (TC Liaison)												

Others present: Committee Secretary Sharon Brighthaupt,

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON AGENDA ITEMS

Susan Berger made a motion to open to the public. Frances Gavigan seconded the motion. All in favor. Chairwoman Sageser noted there were no members of the public present. Peg Sullivan made a motion to close. Mary Van Horn seconded. All in favor.

PRESENTATION OF APRIL 15, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Chairwoman Sageser asked if everyone had read the minutes and if there were comments or changes to be made. Hearing none, Peg Sullivan made a motion for the minutes be accepted as presented, Will Harrison seconded. Abstentions’ noted. The minutes were approved as submitted.

EAST AMWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATE

Jim Davidson gave an update on the many upcoming planned events. The recent Lenni Lenape talk was given positive feedback by all who attended.

Cemetery Tour, Saturday, June 20, 2015 – Two sessions (10:00AM and 2:00PM) – Dave Harding and Jim Davidson visited the five cemeteries on the tour including: The Ringoes Monument, The Boss Road Cemetery, Quick/Larison Cemetery, Wertzville Cemetery. Then on to John Hart’s Cave in Hopewell for the 150th anniversary of John Hart’s Monument. The 1st Baptist Church is open only one day a year and this year it will be on July 4th. Also in July arrangements are being made with Rutgers Landscaping to conduct a semi-garden tour. One bus will be arranged for the garden seminar and lunch will be prepared by the Blue Fish Grill and then on to the sixty-six acre growing farm on Dunkard Church Road. Then on to view several homes that have been landscaped by them.

Still collecting and interested in artifacts. Someone recently donated a collection of research documents prepared for the bicentennial about Wertzville. Included in the research is information about a Quick-Van Lieus Cemetery located at the corner of Van Lieus and Wertzville Road, and another cemetery on Rileyville Road. There are two cemeteries on Mountain Road, located at the second driveway after you

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turn off Rocktown Road. We inquired with the owner of the property there and it is overgrown with brambles. They were able to find six tombstones and it really needs cleaned up, perhaps would be a good Eagle Scout Project, or a group of volunteers to clean it out.

CLAWSON HOUSE REHABILITATION UPDATE

Barbara Sageser reports that she visited the Clawson House to take photographs of the basement required by the project authorization form. She was accompanied by a representative of the DPW. She noted the basement was very damp, unusual as in the past it has been very dry. It could be the result of a leak from the pump. Barbara wrote the description and the reason for the project and delivered it to Terri Stahl. Terri will incorporate it into the form, she will use the last application to gather some of the information and use what she needs to complete the new application. A list of the property owners within 200 feet of the property is being updated by the tax and a key map needs to be drawn indicating where things are located. It is nearly finished. We have the bills from Pickell for the submission. She noted they did go up through the upper part of the house to check on the condition. She did not see anything much different than the last time, but this time the composition of the graffiti has changed. It was not broken into, the cover was still intact, but there is newer crayon writing. We will secure it better with vertical plywood on the wall of the building.

Jim Davidson noted there is grant money that has not been applied for and he will continue to gather information see what needs to be done to make it available.

GREENFEST UPDATE

Peg Sullivan and Mary Van Horn were asked for an update on how it went. We had the tri-fold board dedicated to Dr. Larison and we had books and pamphlets available for viewing. We also had other pamphlets on the table, including the Walking Tour Pamphlet. Mary Van Horn noted there appeared to be a decrease in attendees in the afternoon. Peg Sullivan suggested the yellow banners would be helpful to draw more attention at the next exhibition.

QUICK COLLECTION WORK

Barbara Sageser and Peg Sullivan went and collected the items for the Greenfest. If three people get together it has to be noticed as a meeting. Will Harrison asked if it is worth it to review the quorum of our committee. Is three a realistic number for a quorum for our specific committee? It does not require an ordinance, but does have to go to the Township Committee. Will Davidson made a motion that the Historic Preservation Committee change our quorum to be a majority of active members. Jim Davidson seconded. All in favor. One abstained (Frances Gavigan).

Pauline Serafin voiced concern that it might make it complicated to meet the criteria of having a regular public meeting if this were to take place. It is unclear what actually is a quorum of the Historic Preservation Committee. This will need to be researched. The committee members are not elected, and elected officials are under different rules by process of being elected. Barbara Sageser suggested we ask Terri Stahl to advise the committee to clarify the rules.

Pauline Serafin believes work sessions do not need to be noticed. Barbara Sageser read aloud a notice indicating no official business would be conducted. Barbara Sageser will discuss further with Terri Stahl and get clarification about the possibility of work sessions.

Barbara Sageser asked for volunteers to work on the Quick Collection. Will Harrison would like to take part, Frances Gavigan can be available on Friday afternoon. It would need to be prior to 3:00PM as Terri Stahl has to be present, so we are unable to stay beyond township working hours.

Will Harrison suggested we ask the Township to re-partition the area so we could have a space where we can work on the collection without imposing on the secretary. Discussion ensued about the workspace

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and the difficulty of working for short periods of time, with little light, not enough table space and only one chair. It is not conducive to being productive.

HISTORIC INVENTORY REVIEW UPDATE

Jim Davidson reports a meeting took place and he is expecting to receive an update from the County.

COUNTY CEMETERY REVIEW UPDATE

Barbara Sageaser reports she has received communication from the members who presented to the committee last month. She read the communication to the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Davidson reported on progress at Peacocks. The whole building has been erected modularly.

CORRESPONDENCE

Clawson House documents returned from Terri Stahl.

New budget.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No new announcements.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Pauline Serafin made a motion to open to the public. Chairwoman Sageaser noted there were no other members of the public present. Frances Gavigan seconded the motion. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Will Harrison made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Frances Gavigan seconded, all in favor.

Chairwoman Sageaser declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45PM.

The next Historic Preservation meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2015 at 7:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/Sharon Brighthaupt, Secretary