

A special meeting of the East Amwell Township Committee came to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Mayor Dart Sageser, Deputy Mayor David Wang-Iverson, and Committee member Charles Van Horn. Committee members Tim Mathews and Peter Miller were absent.

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, a copy of notice of this meeting was filed in the Clerk's Office, posted on the bulletin board, and sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Times of Trenton, and Star Ledger on February 9, 2015. The purpose of this meeting is to meet with candidates for Township committees/boards.

The public is invited to attend. Action may or may not be taken.

Historic Preservation Chair Barbara Sageser was also in attendance.

Debra Lee Carney, Amwell Road, is interested in the Historic Preservation Committee. She has been an East Amwell resident since 1994, with her children (except older son) attending the East Amwell School. She has been a volunteer, including a Boy Scout leader, through the years. Her interest in history coincides with her interest in historical fiction, and she would like to know more about the history of the township and its houses. She appreciates the rural character of the township and the preservation efforts that have been made.

Mrs. Carney was involved with the Hunterdon County 300th anniversary celebration last year, running children's activities. Les Hamilton suggested that she apply for a position in the past, but there were never any openings. Mrs. Carney spoke of her interest in the historical preservation of houses, on living across the street from developed Raritan Township, and about "having beauty in her own backyard" in East Amwell. She also spoke about walking in Clawson Park with her dogs and "seeing the beautiful little town of Ringoes, ... and wanting to keep it that way," comparing it to a trip to Greece and seeing ruins that will not be repaired.

Mrs. Sageser ascertained that Mrs. Carney would be available during the day. Mrs. Carney works from home for her husband's company working in human resources for many years. She was also a paralegal and is familiar with investigations. She is currently working on her B.S. in Human Resource Business Management. She also has good computer skills.

Mayor Wang-Iverson asked if Mrs. Carney was familiar with the Village of Ringoes study with a focus on improving village conditions; she was aware of it through newspaper articles. Mrs. Carney reiterated that she did not live in the village but on Amwell Road near Cider Mill.

Mr. Van Horn felt that Mrs. Carney would be a good candidate for the Historic Preservation Committee, based on her background and interests.

Susan Berger, Amwell Road, is also interested in the Historic Preservation Committee. She also lives close to Cider Mill Road and has lived in East Amwell for 27 years; she has learned a lot about the history of East Amwell through talking with Jim Davidson over the past few years. She has always been interested in history, e.g., South Carolina, plantations, Civil War, slavery, etc. She cited a book entitled "Reverence to Wood" about preserving old buildings, speaking about her vision in keeping the beauty of older homes.

Mrs. Berger is a member of the Board of Hunterdon Prevention Resource and has been involved in Operation NJ Cares, who sends products to service men and women overseas. She added that her son is in the Navy and her daughter-in-law is a Marine. Mrs. Berger wants to assist the community by serving, adding that she has worked at Hopewell Valley Community Bank in Ringoes for 2.5 years and has been in banking since 1975. She mentioned a house in Somerset County over 100 years old, where her parents lived and also an old house that her son and daughter-in-law recently bought. Mrs. Berger often walks the village area going to Clawson Park and finds it "a neat little town." Mrs. Berger and Mrs. Sageser exchanged comments about some of the historical "taverns" in the municipality.

Mrs. Sageser outlined many of the projects that the Historic Preservation Committee has been involved with over the last few years, including the following: a Dr. Larison challenge at the East Amwell Township School with a contest where students posters were hung around the township; they assist the East Amwell Historical Society, and many Historic Preservation Committee members are also members of the Society; the Society helped with the Hunterdon

County 300th by providing a program on Dr. Larison and a former slave; they have participated in expos in Hunterdon County; the Society will hold a program on February 22 on Black History, which stemmed from last year's cemetery tour; a historic calendar for 2015 was also published this year; the Quick Collection, stored in the municipal basement, needs to be archived properly and is an on-going project – the intent is to train some of the Historic Preservation Committee members as archivists, using a system developed by CAPE; the Society is also trying to locate artifacts of the Township (acquiring from many sources, including Ebay), which will eventually be on display at Clawson House.

Mrs. Carney and Mrs. Berger were willing to participate, although Mrs. Berger would not be available during the day. Both would be able to attend the meetings on the 3rd Wednesday. They were advised that action would be taken at the regular Township Committee meeting on February 12th.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Sageser, seconded by Mr. Van Horn, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk