

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Hybrid- February 15, 2022-7:30PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88235430327?pwd=aFB6dHhja3JaS1VIZzMxTThBZmYyQT09>

CALL TO ORDER & OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

The meeting of the East Amwell Historic Preservation Committee was called to order at 7:34 PM by Renee Stemcovski.

The following statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was read into the record by Renee Stemcovski: "In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this is a regularly scheduled meeting pursuant to the annual meeting notice as published in the January 27, 2022 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat, a copy of the agenda for this meeting was forwarded to the Hunterdon County Democrat, filed in the Township Clerk's Office and posted on the bulletin board on February 11, 2022."

ROLL CALL

Committee Member (term expires)	1/18/2022	2/15/2022	3/15/2022	4/19/2022	5/17/2022	6/21/2022	7/19/2022	8/16/2022	9/20/2022	10/18/2022	11/15/2022	12/20/2022
Alexis Antracoli- Class B (12/31/2022)	A	X										
Jenna Casper-Bloom TC Liaison (12/31/2022)	X	X										
Frances Gavigan- Class B (12/31/2024)	X	7:36										
Will Harrison- Class B/Vice-Chair (12/31/2025)	X	X										
Paul Sterchele- Class C (12/31/2022)	A	X										
Peg Sullivan- Class C (12/31/2022)	X	X										
John Seramba- Class C/Chair (12/31/2025)	X	X										
Renee Stemcovski- Secretary (12/31/2022)	X	X										

Others present: Tamara Lee and Kathy Wolfe

REVIEW OF AGENDA

A motion made by John Seramba, seconded by Alexis Antracoli to add the Kleinschmidt House under New Business was unanimously approved.

CITIZENS PRIVILEGE TO SPEAK ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

A motion made by Will Harrison, seconded by Alexis Antracoli to open the floor to the public was unanimously approved. The public had nothing to add at this time. A motion made by Will Harrison, seconded by Frances Gavigan to close the floor to the public was unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

January 18, 2022 Minutes

A motion made by Will Harrison, seconded by Frances Gavigan to approve the minutes was conducted by roll call vote:

Frances Gavigan: Yes; Will Harrison: Yes; Peg Sullivan: Yes; John Seramba: Yes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

East Amwell Historical Society and Museum

Frances Gavigan went to the Freeholders Meeting to thank the county for helping to print the Historical Society calendars. She talked to someone about a historic cemetery and would like to contact the county about getting cemetery preservation funding. The current Historical Society members have not yet been given access to its Face Book page. Kathy Wolfe said she would help Frances Gavigan with that after the meeting. The Historical Society is looking into collaborating with The Grange. People are utilizing the museum's archives for research. Frances Gavigan is working on a report to send to the Township Committee regarding details of their operations and the yearly calendar.

Historic Preservation Ordinance

There is a version of the ordinance with a section that gives the township power to fine homeowners for violations, but it is not in the current ordinance available online. Members of the committee are looking into when this section was added and retracted. The current ordinance only gives the Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) the power to recommend. Tamara Lee pointed out that there are several things present in most local ordinances that are not present in East Amwell's. She suggested creating an architectural style guide, giving the HPC time to review applications, having homeowners come before the HPC to discuss their applications before going to the Planning board, and giving the HPC time to record properties before any changes are made to buildings. Frances Gavigan and Peg Sullivan volunteered to create a subcommittee to work on this project.

Meeting Location

The Committee decided to table discussion until the next meeting.

Certified Local Government

The Committee agreed the Certified Local Government program sounds like a good idea. John Seramba said he knows someone who could help with grant applications.

NEW BUSINESS

Policy for Use of Museum

Two Girl Scout troops, led by Jenna Casper-Bloom, requested to hold meetings at the museum. Members of the Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) made the following comments:

Will Harrison: Would like to create an exact policy for how the museum can be used.

Paul Sterchele: Supportive, would like supervisors to watch over the museum.

Alexis Antracoli: Supportive, would like at least one Historical Society (HS) or HPC member on site, and said the museum should be inviting to the public.

Peg Sullivan: Concerned about potential messy crafts with kids' groups. Agrees there should be a representative present.

Frances Gavigan: Said organization is key. Thinks that if the HS develops a better relationship with The Grange, then groups wanting to do messy crafts could go there instead. Said that the John Allen event in January went well, so those kinds of activities at the museum are manageable.

John Seramba: Said the Tree Lighting was a last-minute event to benefit the community and that the museum should be enjoyed by the public regularly. Agrees on having supervision. Would like local students involved with the HPC, HS and museum.

Jenna Casper-Bloom said that Girl Scout troops cannot meet in private homes, and right now are unable to meet at school or the library. She then described what meetings typically look like and assured that her troops would not do any messy crafts at the museum. She also explained that Girl Scout troops acquire Certificates of Insurance for meeting locations.

John Seramba suggested developing a contract for use that says users will promise to cover any potential damages or cleaning costs. He would like to require a Certificate of Insurance for all groups that would utilize the museum. Will Harrison would like the HPC to discuss museum use applications before they are approved, with a contingency for extenuating circumstances. Frances Gavigan said a lease agreement with the HS still needs to be created and the museum's security needs to be updated. She suggested against distributing codes to potential groups using the museum and said the building should be unlocked and locked by whoever is supervising. She also expressed concern that some HS members may not be supportive of any use policy. Will Harrison would like the use policy to be approved by the HS and Township Committee.

215 Mountain Road

A motion made by Frances Gavigan, seconded by Paul Sterchele to approve the application, as it has no historical impact, was conducted by roll call vote:

Alexis Antracoli: Yes; Frances Gavigan: Yes; Will Harrison: Yes; Paul Sterchele: Yes; Peg Sullivan: Yes; John Seramba: Abstain.

Kleinschmidt House

The Kleinschmidt House sits next to a cemetery and is severely damaged. The house has been unoccupied for years and it is unclear who the owners are. Will Harrison suggested that the property be given to the cemetery. Jenna Casper-Bloom explained that since the township neither owns nor is interested in purchasing the property, it cannot give the property to the cemetery. The Committee then discussed different options for how the property could be acquired.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

There were no items for discussion.

ORAL REPORTS

No updates at this time.

PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS

There were no vouchers for approval.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A motion made by Frances Gavigan, seconded by Will Harrison to open the floor to the public was unanimously approved. The public had nothing to add at this time. A motion made by Will Harrison, seconded by Paul Sterchele to close the floor to the public was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Paul Sterchele, seconded by Will Harrison to adjourn the meeting at 9:04pm was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Renee Stemcovski, Secretary