

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
May 16, 2023 – 7:30PM**

CALL TO ORDER & OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

The meeting of the East Amwell Historic Preservation Committee was called to order at 7:31 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 December 18, 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 May 10, 2023."

ROLL CALL

Committee Member (term expires)	1/17/2023	2/21/2023	3/21/2023	4/18/2023	5/16/2023	6/20/2023	7/18/2023	8/15/2023	9/19/2023	10/17/2023	11/21/2023	12/19/2023
Paul Carluccio- Class B (12/31/2026)	X	7:33	X	X	X							
Cassie DeCandia- Class C (12/31/2026)	X	X	X	X	X							
Frances Gavigan- Class B (12/31/2024)	X	A	A	A	A							
Dave Harding- Class B (12/31/2026)	X	X	X	X	X							
Will Harrison- Class B/Vice-Chair (12/31/2025)	X	X	X	X	X							
Beth Hussain- Class C (12/31/2026)	A	7:34	X	7:34	X							
John Mills- TC Liaison (12/31/2023)	X	X	X	A	X							
John Seramba- Class C/Chair (12/31/2025)	X	X	A	A	8:09							
Paul Sterchele- Class C (12/31/2026)	X	X	A	A	X							
Mary Van Horn- Class C (12/31/2026)	X	A	A	A	X							
Renee Stemcovski- Secretary (12/31/2023)	X	X	X	X	X							

REVIEW OF AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A motion made by Dave Harding, seconded by Cassie DeCandia to open the floor to the public was unanimously approved.

Noel Wiggins investigated possibilities for the Kleinschmidt House (KHouse), located at the corner of Old York Road and Dutch Lane, and other dilapidated houses in the area. She provided a handout to the committee (HPC), which was an adapted version of the Ringoes Historic District National Register Nomination. Will Harrison said the Township Committee (TC) is

uninterested in taking over the KHouse. Noel Wiggins asked if the cemetery wall is historic. It is. Will Harrison explained that the KHouse has lost its historic integrity since it is so deteriorated. Perhaps a memorial could go in its place. Noel Wiggins spoke to two people from the NJ Historic Preservation Office about the KHouse and expressed willingness to help in any way she can. Will Harrison said members of the Rockefeller Family are buried in the adjacent cemetery. John Mills expressed that the TC's position is that the KHouse is just one of many dilapidated buildings in the township. Dave Harding said the East Amwell Historic Society is currently uninvolved. Will Harrison expressed gratitude for Noel Wiggins showing up and caring. Dave Harding brainstormed avenues for funding and expressed thanks to Noel Wiggins.

A motion made by Dave Harding, seconded by Beth Hussain to close the floor to the public was unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

April 18, 2023 Minutes

A motion made by Beth Hussain, seconded by Dave Harding to approve the minutes as amended was unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

East Amwell Historical Society and Museum

Will Harrison discussed a current exhibit in the museum. He also said that when the roof was replaced, items from the attic were moved to the second floor and have not yet been replaced.

Museum Occupancy Agreement and Use Policy

Nothing to report.

Historic Preservation Ordinance

Nothing to report.

Kleinschmidt House

John Mills talked to a county attorney about the Kleinschmidt House (KHouse) at the corner of Old York Road and Dutch Lane. The attorney suggested the cemetery group could apply for grants, given the house is impacting them. John Mills said he will go back to the attorney with a ballpark estimate of what the demolition would cost. Will Harrison said he would like to ask an attorney about how other municipalities go about similar situations as this. He then asked how this committee could move forward if the funding appeared. The committee cannot raise money on its own as a part of the government. Paul Carluccio said others in the community could theoretically form a 501(c)(3) to raise money. He also said that the NJ Historic Trust offers matching grants for preservation, not demolition. He then suggested reaching out to other descendants of the people buried in the cemetery.

Region Nine

John Seramba said he resigned from the Planning Board (PB). The Region Nine project has been approved by the PB, so now they will go to the state for funding. Region Nine does not have to go to the township Board of Health or Septic & Well because the state will review them. Region Nine previously said they will save the existing house at 20 John Ringo Road but they will probably subdivide it. The PB does not know about the stone structure that may have been a wagon house located behind the house.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Budget

John Seramba suggested using some of the funds to get a preliminary review of the Kleinschmidt House (KHouse) from an Environmental Engineering company. He expressed that he does not feel the Township Committee (TC) takes this committee (HPC) seriously. Will Harrison suggested saving some of the budget to donate toward the Historical Society's 2024 calendar. Paul Carluccio said he does not think the HPC should hire someone for this as it could possibly be done for free. John Seramba said this could be a good first step, since it has taken so long to do anything. Paul Carluccio questioned why the HPC should be involved in the KHouse. John Seramba said that if a professional firm does this report, the HPC can take it to the TC and make its recommendation as an advisory board. He hypothesized the TC will take the firm's report more seriously than just the HPC's word. The KHouse, when used, was heated by an above-ground oil tank that has since been removed, so the environmental investigation should come back clean. Will Harrison said that getting an investigation done would be in line with the HPC's 2023 goals.

ORAL REPORTS

Historic Farm Structures Subcommittee

Paul Carluccio said the Historic Farm Structures Subcommittee (HFSS) went to the NJ Barn Company. They received information on how barns in the region are constructed. Wertsville Road has a very good collection of early American barns. Paul Carluccio said that he is working on getting addresses of historic barns in town, not just general locations, so that the HFSS can begin surveying. He then discussed long-term goals and possibilities of this survey. Will Harrison suggested starting with photography as that is the fastest and easiest way to document barns. Paul Carluccio and Will Harrison discussed the new Holcombe Jimison Farmstead Museum.

PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS

PastPerfect

Renee Stemcovski gave the purchase order to renew the PastPerfect subscription to the CFO.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A motion made by John Seramba, seconded by Beth Hussain to open the floor to the public was unanimously approved.

Noel Wiggins said that Region Nine has not yet filled out a Section 106 or E106 form. She also has a list of potential environmental companies that the committee could consult in regard to the Kleinschmidt House (KHouse). She will see if they would consider doing anything pro bono. Will Harrison questioned if the Township Committee will move forward to do anything even if the required money for demolition became available. He then said former councilmember David Wang-Iverson got a bid for demolition and applied for a grant in 2018. That bid was lost from the municipal building, but Will Harrison contacted the bidder to get a copy. Cassie DeCandia said this committee should let the KHouse project go.

A motion made by John Seramba, seconded by Dave Harding to close the floor to the public was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

HPO Project #23-0848-1, CR 579 Resurfacing Project

The committee reviewed the email (see attached). Committee members expressed they are looking forward to the road being resurfaced.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by John Seramba, seconded by Dave Harding to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 PM was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Renee Stemcovski, Secretary



RE: [External Email] - FW: HPO Project #23-0848-1, CR 579 Resurfacing Project

Eric Daley <edaley@co.hunterdon.nj.us> Fri, Apr 28, 2023 at 7:29 AM
To: "Baratta, Meghan [DEP]" <Meghan.Baratta@dep.nj.gov>
Cc: "historical@eastamwelltownship.com" <historical@eastamwelltownship.com>, "lgiliberti@eastamwelltownship.com" <lgiliberti@eastamwelltownship.com>, "Leynes, Jennifer [DEP]" <Jennifer.Leynes@dep.nj.gov>, "Maresca, Vincent [DEP]" <Vincent.Maresca@dep.nj.gov>

Received. Thank you for your review. I will reach out if there are any changes proposed in the Ringoes Historic District. I've also made note of the potential comments for the Easton-Trenton Turnpike district and will plan accordingly.

Hope you all enjoy the weekend.

Regards,

Eric P. Daley | Senior Engineer



Hunterdon County | Engineering Division
314 State RT 12 Building 1
PO Box 2900 Flemington NJ 08822

T 908.788.1227 F 908.788.1231

From: Baratta, Meghan [DEP] [mailto:Meghan.Baratta@dep.nj.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2023 1:34 PM
To: Eric Daley <edaley@co.hunterdon.nj.us>
Cc: historical@eastamwelltownship.com; lgiliberti@eastamwelltownship.com; Leynes, Jennifer [DEP] <Jennifer.Leynes@dep.nj.gov>; Maresca, Vincent [DEP] <Vincent.Maresca@dep.nj.gov>
Subject: [External Email] - FW: HPO Project #23-0848-1, CR 579 Resurfacing Project

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links/attachments or respond to requests unless you recognize the sender, the email address properly identifies the sender, and you know that the content is safe.

****This e-mail serves as the official correspondence of the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office.****

HPO Project #23-0848-1
HPO- D2023-173

Eric Daley
Senior Engineer
Hunterdon County, Engineering Division
via email, edaley@co.hunterdon.nj.us

**RE: Hunterdon County, East Amwell Township
County Route 579 Resurfacing Project
Application for Project Authorization
New Jersey Register of Historic Places Act Review
Ringoos Historic District (SR: 10/12/1999)**

Dear Mr. Daley,

Thank you for submitting an application for project authorization for the proposed resurfacing of County Route (CR) 579, the southern portion of which is located within the Ringoes Historic District. Your application was technically complete and professionally sufficient pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:4-7:1 upon receipt on March 31, 2023.

The proposed project involves the resurfacing of CR 579. The project scope within the Ringoes Historic District is limited to milling, paving, and the repair and resetting of existing inlets. Based upon the information provided, as documented on project plans dated March 2023, the proposed project meets the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation* and therefore, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:4-7.4(b)2, **does not constitute an encroachment** on historic properties. The undertaking is therefore approved as proposed. Please contact the Historic Preservation Office (HPO) for review if any of your project plans change.

In accordance with 7:4-7.2(e)10, if an authorized, or conditionally authorized, project is not undertaken within five years of the date of authorization, the authorization shall automatically expire.

Additional Comments

As documented in your Application, the proposed project is also located within the Easton-Trenton Turnpike Historic District in Delaware and Raritan Townships. This district has been determined eligible for, but is not listed on, the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places (SHPO Opinion 11/23/2011). The New Jersey Register of Historic Places Act only applies to properties listed on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places; therefore, an Application is not required for this part of the project. However, if the HPO has review of this project through a Division of Land Resource Protection (DLRP) permit, then we likely would have concerns regarding the use of riprap slope protection within the Easton-Trenton Turnpike Historic District boundaries.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jennifer Leynes of my staff at jennifer.leynes@dep.nj.gov. Please reference HPO project number 22-0035 in any future calls, emails, or written correspondence to help expedite our review and response. Thank you for your cooperation with this review.

Sincerely,

Meghan MacWilliams Baratta, M.S., CPM
Supervising Historic Preservation Specialist
NJ Historic Preservation Office
Mail Code 501-04B
NJ DEP
PO Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420
609-292-1253

MMB/VM/JBL



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