

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
July 18, 2023 – 7:30PM**

CALL TO ORDER & OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

The meeting of the East Amwell Historic Preservation Committee was called to order at 7:55 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 July 13, 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	X	A					
Rich Catenacci- Alternate No. 1						A	A					
Cassie DeCandia- Class C (12/31/2026)	X	X	X	X	X	7:42	X					
Frances Gavigan- Class B (12/31/2024)	X	A	A	A	A	7:53	X					
Dave Harding- Class B (12/31/2026)	X	X	X	X	X	X	A					
Will Harrison- Class B/Vice-Chair (12/31/2025)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Beth Hussain- Class C (12/31/2026)	A	7:34	X	7:34	X	X	X					
John Mills- TC Liaison (12/31/2023)	X	X	X	A	X	A	X					
John Seramba- Class C/Chair (12/31/2025)	X	X	A	A	8:09	X	A					
Paul Sterchele- Class C (12/31/2026)	X	X	A	A	X	X	X					
Mary Van Horn- Class C (12/31/2026)	X	A	A	A	X	A						
Renee Stemcovski- Secretary (12/31/2023)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					

Others Present: Kenna Larsen and John Allen, Township Historian

REVIEW OF AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

The public had nothing to say at this time

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

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

June 20, 2023 Minutes

A motion made by Paul Sterchele, seconded by Beth Hussain to approve the minutes was unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

East Amwell Historical Society and Museum

The museum will be open this weekend and has a new exhibit. The Historical Society is working on getting more visitors to the museum, which has been greatly impacted by the Pandemic. Frances Gavigan went to the Township Committee (TC) about getting security updates at the museum. John Mills said the TC has not had a chance to review/discuss her proposals yet. Will Harrison thinks the interior security cameras should be the first priority. Frances Gavigan said the museum's projector was stolen out of a cabinet.

Kleinschmidt House

John Mills commended Mike Dendis and Dante DiPirro. The Township was able to secure \$40,000 from the State for demolition of the Kleinschmidt House (corner of Old York Road and Dutch Lane). The Township needs to legally declare the building abandoned and condemned, before going to bid for demolition. The TC is not taking ownership of the Kleinschmidt House, but will be able to demolish regardless. John Mills expressed thanks to all who pushed this issue, especially Will Harrison. Will Harrison said this committee (HPC) will assist in whatever way is asked. A motion to thank the TC, especially Mike Dendis, and the State for their support in this initiative in securing funds for demolishing the Kleinschmidt House was made by Frances Gavigan, seconded by Beth Hussain, and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Museum Occupancy Agreement and Use Policy

Frances Gavigan is working on a draft Museum Occupancy Agreement with the TC. Will Harrison said a local stamp club has been meeting monthly at the museum without issue.

Region Nine

The house at 20 John Ringo Road might be divided into two apartment units, adding to the 24 units in the proposed new construction. Kenna Larsen expressed concern that Region Nine will say the house is condemned last second and have it razed. She suggested having the building fully documented ASAP, regardless of what will happen to it. The house is listed on the NJ and

National Register of Historic Places, within the Ringoes Historic District. The HPC discussed other historic and deteriorating buildings in town, especially the Odd Fellows building.

ORAL REPORTS

Historic Farm Structures Subcommittee

Frances Gavigan said Paul Carluccio has made a list of barns for investigation.

John Allen

John Allen said the museum has many artifacts from outside East Amwell that need to be deaccessioned. He said house museums often fail, and suggested the museum be strictly East Amwell-centric and that the Historical Society (HS) write an article about the museum/collections for the East Amwell VIP newsletter every other month. Museums need a specific focus and always have something fresh, in order to attract visitors. John Allen asked about the monthly expenses of the museum on the Township side. Frances Gavigan said there are non-East Amwell artifacts within the Quick Collection, which is Township owned, so that will need to be discussed with the TC. Will Harrison suggested members of HPC and HS team up for deaccessioning.

PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A motion made by Frances Gavigan, seconded by Paul Sterchele to open the floor to the public was unanimously approved.

Will Harrison thanked Kenna Larsen for coming and said the HPC is looking forward to having her join.

A motion made by Paul Sterchele, seconded by Cassie DeCandia to close the floor to the public was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Paul Sterchele, seconded by Cassie DeCandia to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 PM was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Renee Stemcovski, Secretary