

West Amwell Historic Preservation Committee Meeting

West Amwell Municipal Building
150 Rocktown Lambertville Road
July 15, 2019 7:00 pm

MINUTES

Members in Attendance:

Peter Buchsbaum, Paul Cronic, Betty Jane Hunt, Pat Masterson, Martha Shea, Linda Weber (Chair)

Others in Attendance:

Steve Bergenfeld, Township Committee Liaison

1. Approval of Minutes of May 17, 2019 meeting

M/S by Hunt/Shea

2. Correspondence - none

3. West Amwell Historic Preservation Committee - purpose, duties and responsibilities

Linda reported that the official resolution or ordinance creating this committee cannot be found, though she found a reference to it in the October 1992 Township Committee minutes. Linda discussed the advantage of a commission format per the Municipal Land Use Law, e.g. eligibility for certified local government program/grants. The committee agreed to stay with the "committee" format and draft a simple resolution for the Township Committee's consideration. Peter and Linda will draft a resolution for the next meeting, using the mission statement from previous calendars.

4. 2019-2020 Work Program

Underway/Update

- Organize files and resources – Linda and Martha worked on this in June
- Return contest photographs to owners – Martha returned most of the photos found in the HPC files to the owners. These are photos from this committee's prior contests o/a 20 years ago, and some people have since moved away. The committee agreed that given the photos are not historic and there are no people in the pictures, those remaining photos will no longer be kept by the HPC. Martha will give them to the Township Clerk in the event she might have a need for them.
- Obtain copies of historic district nominations and eligibility letters – Linda has obtained digital copies of most of the NR/SR nominations from the National Park Service, and will continue to work on getting the eligibility letters from the NJHPO office.

For discussion

- Archival storage of historic documents, photographs and artifacts.
 - Linda and Martha will explore options for archiving the photographs.

- Possible historic grinding stones from the Fulper farm (Indian Jim) donated to the committee in 1965.
- Peter will take them to the State Museum and ask if they are authentic.
- War Veterans Memorial Sign
- Paul Cronic will ask Rob Tomenchok about the status of the sign refurbishment and about any intentions for a future ceremony.
- Promoting local history and historic assets (via publications, website, events, etc)
district nominations on NR/SR
- It would be helpful to know when the sites listed in the municipal historic preservation master plan were last assessed
- Linda said the master plan didn't reference any of the NR/SR districts
- Linda will find out the rules/options for posting material on the website, eg. videos, large files, etc.
- 175th West Amwell Anniversary
- This could possibly be an event on the fairgrounds. To be discussed more at upcoming meetings.
- Other:
- Betty Jane said the fire department women's auxiliary might be looking for an event to celebrate past and current members. Betty Jane will keep the committee informed.

5. Mt Airy Walking Tour

The 300th Hunterdon County Anniversary group is hosting the Mt Airy Walking Tour on September 28, at 10 a.m. The tour involves three members of this committee: Peter will be leading the walking tour; Pat will organize a tour of the church and perhaps the old schoolhouse; and, Betty is the local liaison. Committee members agreed to loan to this group some of the older photographs of Mt Airy for display in the church or school house. Betty Jane asked if the committee could also contribute punch and cookies and members said they would be willing. (The approximate number of participants is 20-30.) It hasn't been determined yet whether the interior of any homes will be on the tour. Betty Jane and Peter will copy portions of the Mt Airy walking tour booklet for participants. Betty Jane is working with Marcia Karrow on this event, and will let the committee know if and when any help is needed.

6. Other business (open agenda item)

- Peter noted it will be interesting to see if the railroad line will be opening up through Bowne Station.

7. Next meeting date – October 15th at 2:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by,

Linda Weber, Chair