

West Amwell Historic Preservation Committee Meeting

Saturday, January 9, 2021 Time: 1:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting - Zoom

Minutes

Attendees: Peter Buchsbaum, Betty Jane Hunt, Linda Weber, Martha Shea and Paul Cronce

The meeting started late, about 1:10 pm, due to audio problems.

1. Annual Reorganization of the West Amwell Historic Preservation Committee

Peter Buchsbaum moved the following slate of officers for 2021:

Chair: Linda Weber

Vice-Chair: Betty Jane Hunt

Secretary: Rotating role of non-officer members

The motion was seconded by Betty Jane and carried unanimously. Linda said that the three-year terms of Peter and Paul had been renewed by the Township Committee. She asked if they drop by the municipal building to sign their oaths.

2. Approval of Minutes of December 8, 2020 meeting – Moved for acceptance by Betty Jane and seconded by Peter. Carried unanimously.

3. Correspondence (none)

4. Old Photo Identification – update. Peter scanned some of the photos that Gayle Schaible had shared with us. He dropped off the originals at the municipal building.

5. WW II Veterans Memorial Sign and Re-Dedication – update. Peter said he deferred to others on how the sign interpretation should be worded and framed. Given the short meeting and need to jump on the call with the 175th Anniversary Committee, the discussion would continue by email.

6. 175th Township Anniversary Celebration. Linda said the kick-off meeting was at 1:30 following this meeting. Betty Jane agreed to serve as co-chair with Mark Valente.

7. Other business. Linda said that the Township Committee did not appoint the volunteer that wanted to serve on the Historic Preservation Committee. The resident is an architect and would be a great asset to the committee. Linda said the clerk, Maria Andrews, told her the reason was that HPC is a five member committee and that we already have five members. Linda said the HPC had recommended to the Township Committee last year that they be a 5 regular and 2 alternate committee. She reviewed the adopted resolution from 2020 and noticed that instead of “five” regular members, the resolution said “office” – presumably a typo. The two alternate members were in the resolution. Again, the concern is why the Township Committee thinks the committee is only five members. After some discussion, the HPC agreed that if the resolution needs to be corrected that it should be changed to seven regular members (and no alternates.) Peter made the motion, seconded by Betty Jane, that the Township Committee be asked to correct and change the resolution accordingly. The motion carried unanimously.

Peter said that there’s been a continuing discussion via email with Delaware Township residents and local historians about the railroad stations that were once in the area, including Bowne Station and Mt Airy. Linda and Betty Jane are also on the email thread. One of the historians had shared a sketch of the old station on Bowne Station via email. It’s been a very interesting discussion. Peter said he was going to walk the area. The HPC will stay involved in these RR discussions.

8. Next meeting date – February 9, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m

