

West Amwell Historic Preservation Committee Meeting

West Amwell Municipal Building
150 Rocktown Lambertville Road
July 13, 2020 3:00 p.m.

Minutes

Attendees: Peter Buchsbaum (by phone), Paul Cronce, Betty Jane Hunt, Martha Shea, Linda Weber (Chair)

1. Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2020 meeting

Moved by Betty Jane Hunt and seconded by Paul Cronce. All in favor.

2. Correspondence

- Invitation to the June 6, 2020 annual Hunterdon County Community Day, from the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission, dated March 12, 2020

- West Amwell Township Committee resolution approving the duties and responsibilities of the Historic Preservation Committee, memorialized on March 4, 2020

3. Old Photo Identification - update

Betty Jane and Martha Shea will schedule a work meeting in the fall. Pat Masterson also offered to help.

4. War Veterans Memorial ("Honor Roll") sign - update

Paul has a military stone, 12 X 10 X 4, that can be used to explain the purpose of the memorial sign that was recently relocated to the municipal building property. There has been some confusion as to which war the veterans served, and why some township veterans were not included. The proposed additional sign/stone would clarify these issues with language something like, "Dedicated in c. 1948 to WW II veterans who were township residents at that time." Paul and Betty Jane will look into costs, including a possible brass plate that could be engraved instead of the stone, to lower the cost. Linda said a small wooden sign hanging down from the larger sign is another option. Martha will research the dedication date of the sign. Once the cost estimates have been obtained, the HPC will ask the Township Committee for its support/approval of the sign addition and re-dedication ceremony. If the re-dedication is to occur in November, the cost estimates and approvals need to be completed by early September to allow ample time for the sign to be engraved.

5. 2020 Work Program and 175th Township Anniversary Celebration

A. Bus Tour of West Amwell Historic Sites

Betty Jane suggested a re-dedication of the War Veterans/honor roll sign could be held on Veterans Day, 11-11-20, with the announcement of the 175th Anniversary bus tour to be held in 2021. Each bus would have a speaker talking about the Township's history and

explaining the historic sites on the tour, and then circle back to the municipal building for displays of historic images and light refreshments. This could be held in May or September in 2021. There could be a \$5 fee to cover expenses and to help assure that people would show up after signing up for the tour. Peter suggested possibly including the two Roebling homes on the bus tour. Linda suggested the event be planned for fall 2021 because the current social distancing requirements may extend well into next year.

For the September meeting, Betty Jane will look into the following:

- Find out if school buses can be used.
- Get cost estimates for buses and drivers (school or other).

Linda will ask the Township Committee if they would be willing support these efforts financially.

B. What is this Place?

This would be an online public competition of sorts that displays photos and captions of historic sites and residents would be asked to name the location of the sites. To encourage participation, a prize should probably be offered for correct responses. This could also be conducted through the schools. Linda will type up ideas for discussion at the September meeting.

6. Other business (open agenda item)

Peter has been in contact with someone from Delaware Township that would like to coordinate historic research of the Bowne Station area. The HPC agreed this would be a good idea, and thought an emphasis on the rail stations might be of interest to the community. Given the current work on the anniversary projects, the Bowne research will need to be delayed until the HPC has more time to devote to it.

7. Next meeting date – Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 7 p.m.



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TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL Resolution #41-2020

WHEREAS, the Township of West Amwell has a rich history and cultural heritage that contributes to a sense of community and shared identity; and,

WHEREAS, the historic buildings, sites and artifacts in West Amwell convey the community's aesthetic and cultural history dating back to the colonial period and before; and,

WHEREAS, the West Amwell Historic Preservation Committee was created by the Township Committee years ago to help identify, record and promote the Township's local history and cultural heritage; and,

WHEREAS, the West Amwell Historic Preservation Committee has recently developed guidelines for its membership, duties and responsibilities and is seeking the Township Committee's endorsement of the same.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the West Amwell Township Committee that the:

1. The West Amwell Historic Preservation Committee shall serve as an advisory body to the Township Committee for the purposes of identifying, recording and promoting local history and historic sites, structures and artifacts within the Township.
2. The membership of the West Amwell Historic Preservation Committee shall consist of regular members and up to two alternatives, each serving three-year terms. The members shall be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Township Committee. At least one regular member of the Committee shall be knowledgeable about historic architecture and all members shall have an interest in promoting the local history of the Township.
3. The Committee shall select a chair at its first meeting of each year by a simple majority of the members present. A vice-chair and secretary may also be selected by Committee members.
4. The duties and responsibilities of the West Amwell Historic Preservation Committee are as follows:
 - a. Identify and record the history of the people, sites, artifacts and buildings of West Amwell Township.
 - b. Promote an awareness and appreciation of the rich history of the Township through programs, events, documentation and research.
 - c. Act in an advisory capacity to the Township Committee, Township Planning Board and Township Zoning Board of Adjustment when a proposal might impact an historic site or structure.
 - d. Monitor the sites and districts currently listed or eligible for listing in the State and National Registers of Historic Places, and provide information to the Township Committee so it may respond to the same.
 - e. Provide recommendations to the Planning Board on the historic preservation plan element of the master plan, including historic sites and buildings listed or suitable for listing in the plan and the implications of historic district designations and eligibility.
 - f. This Committee shall in no way bind the Township of West Amwell.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution approved by the West Amwell Township Committee at their regular meeting held on March 4, 2020.


Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC