

West Amwell Historic Preservation Committee Meeting

West Amwell Municipal Building
150 Rocktown Lambertville Road
May 17, 2019 2:00 pm

Minutes

Attendance: Linda Weber, Betty Jane Hunt, Martha Shea

This is an informal kick-off meeting to re-organize the West Amwell Historic Preservation Committee.

Historic Preservation Committee (duties and responsibilities)

Linda said she was unable to find a resolution or ordinance creating the committee, which would have been helpful for understanding the committee's duties and responsibilities. If the resolution or ordinance can't be found, the committee said it would draft something for the Township Committee's consideration, after more HPC members were recruited.

Historic sites, structures and districts

Linda reviewed the current list of historic sites, structures and districts in the township that are listed or eligible for listing in the State and National Registers. The list was obtained from the NJDEP Historic Preservation Office. The committee didn't recognize the names of some of the sites and structures and was interested in finding out more information. The township's Master Plan includes a lengthy list of historic structures, many of which were obtained from the Hunterdon County inventory from the late 70's and early 80's. There are no locally designated districts or landmarks in the township.

Work Program 2019-2020

The group discussed the following projects and tasks for 2019 and 2020.

Immediate projects and tasks:

- Organize the committee's documents, meeting minutes and publications in the lateral files.
- Sort through the photographs in the files, discard unwanted pictures and document the remaining photos.
- Identify the resources on local history and historic preservation that can be available for public review, and list them on the Township website.
- Determine if any documents or artifacts are stored in the basement of the municipal building, especially the galley copy of Wandering West Amwell
- Provide assistance, as available, to Betty Jane and the team working on the Mt Airy Walking Tour scheduled for September.
- Obtain copies of the SR/NR nomination forms and letters of eligibility from the NJ Historic Preservation office. Since this will incur copying costs, the committee will need to request funding from the Township Committee.
- Information gathering on the Gano village west of Mt Airy Harborton Road, between Rock Road and Rocktown Road.

Future projects:

- The 175th anniversary of the township is 2021. The group discussed using the anniversary to host an historic event or two, and have publications (including Wandering West Amwell) and other resources on local history available to the community. This will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.
- Reprints of Wandering West Amwell. This would require a budget for 2020. The County print shop provides discounted printing for municipalities and should be contacted for an estimate once the originally galley copy has been found.
- Conversion of VCR tapes (oral history, interviews, etc) into CDs/DVDs
- Assistance to the Fireman's Auxillary, as needed, for any celebratory events

Recruiting new members

Additional members are needed for this committee. A few names were mentioned and everyone offered to reach out to at least 1-2 people over the next week or two. Ultimately, the mayor will need to formally appoint new members to the committee.

Next steps

- An informal work session is scheduled for June 13th at 1:00. The purpose of the meeting is to begin to sort through the lateral files and organize the materials by topic.
- Linda will speak to Maria Andrews to see if the committee could be allocated a small budget.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Prepared by,

Linda Weber, Chair