

West Amwell Historic Preservation Committee Meeting

West Amwell Municipal Building
150 Rocktown Lambertville Road
October 15, 2019 2:30 pm

Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Peter Buchsbaum, Paul Cronic (arrived late), Betty Jane Hunt, Pat Masterson, Linda Weber (Chair)

Others in Attendance: Steve Bergenfeld, Township Committee Liaison

1. Minutes of July 15, 2019 meeting - approved.

2. Correspondence - none

3. September Mt Airy Walking Tour

- Betty Jane said the walking tour was a success with much thanks to Peter for leading the tour, Pat for baking cookies, and Martha for helping to sort pictures. Pastor Brad gave a talk about the Church and had a nice display of historic items. Julia Kerr sat on her front porch and talked about her house which had once been the Mt. Airy Post Office and General Store; she also added tidbits of history from her 92 years of living in the village. Bruce Runkle invited the group into his historic and beautifully restored home, which was once a storehouse and then a store. He also showed the group his dad's home which had been a stagecoach stop. The tour finished at the old Mt. Airy Schoolhouse where historic photos of the township were displayed and refreshments were served. Many of the 20 people in attendance then strolled through the adjoining cemetery. Betty Jane added that having a picture perfect autumn day helped to make the tour a success.
- Betty Jane said she was informed by the sponsor of the walking tour, the Hunterdon County 300th Anniversary Committee, that the Historic Preservation Committee will receive \$200 for hosting the walking tour.

4. WA Historic Preservation Committee - purpose, duties and responsibilities

- The committee approved a draft list of the West Amwell Historic Preservation Committee's purpose, duties and responsibilities (attached to these minutes), prepared by Linda. The language is to be forwarded to the Township Committee for adoption in a resolution or ordinance. Much of the language was taken from 1990's township calendars.
- Linda reminded the committee that she, Sandy Haberle and Maria Andrews had looked for the original resolution (or ordinance) that described the committee's responsibilities and couldn't find anything.
- Steve will share the draft with the Township Committee at its meeting on Oct 16 for initial feedback before requesting formal action.
- The decision as to whether it will be a resolution or ordinance will be up to the Township Committee.

5. 2019-2020 Work Program

World War II Veterans Memorial

- Paul reported that Scott McCloughan is the eagle scout restoring the memorial. The roof will be replaced with copper and other minor restoration will be done. The restoration will be completed by January and will be installed in front of the municipal building.
- Some local stores have contributed materials for the restoration, though additional funding will likely be needed. Paul said some residents were interested in making donations, and the monies could be forwarded to the boy scout troop to recoup the costs. Any additional donated monies could be given to the township and earmarked for the long-term maintenance of the memorial.
- Martha had developed a list of all veterans from West Amwell starting from the Revolutionary War. The committee thought it was a great resource and will think about how it can be shared with the community.

Documentation of historic district nominations and eligibility letters

As Linda reported in July, she has digital copies of the five districts listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places that include West Amwell properties. These districts are:

Dawlis Mill / Spring Mills Historic District
Delaware and Raritan Canal Historic District
Mount Airy Historic District
New Market / Linvale-Snydertown Historic District
Pleasant Valley Historic District

Linda said the nominations provide a great deal of local history and should be made available to the community. A summary and map of the districts would also be useful. Linda will try and get copies of the eligibility letters for other township sites and structures from the NJ Historic Preservation office.

Archival storage of historic documents, photographs and artifacts

- The committee decided it first needed to label the photographs and the people.
- Betty Jane will work with Pat and Martha on this, and eventually reach out to residents that might be able to identify any unknown people.

Promoting local history and historic assets (via publications, website, events, etc)

- Betty Jane and others will select historic photographs that can be uploaded to the website and shared with the community.
- Linda will look into how the photographs might be visually displayed on the website
- Pat will give Peter the contact information for Don Cornelius to see if he can verify the age and authenticity of the grinding stone previously donated to the township.
- Peter is going to see if we can get a still frame of Mt Airy portrayed in the movie *I am Legend*

175th West Amwell Anniversary

- The committee discussed possibly hosting a bus tour of historic sites in the township to help celebrate the township's anniversary in 2021
- Steve will try and get a ballpark figure of what it would cost to rent a school bus.

6. Other business

- The committee would like to request a small budget from the Township Committee, to be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

- The committee will find out if the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission has any funding. Linda offered to look into this.

7. Next meeting date

Tuesday, January 7, 2020, 7 p.m. at the municipal building.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:50 p.m.

Submitted by,

Linda Weber

West Amwell Historic Preservation Committee
Membership, Duties and Responsibilities (DRAFT)
October 1, 2019

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 five 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 the 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 structures 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 on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, and respond to inquiries regarding 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. Determine what is significant to preserve of the Township's heritage