

**Minutes of the Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee Regular Meeting
October 28, 2021**

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Chair Nancy Zerbe called the October 28, 2021, regularly scheduled meeting of the Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) to order at 7:35 p.m.; the meeting was held virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions. The chair announced that the Borough of Metuchen had posted public notice of the meeting in accordance with New Jersey's Open Public Meetings Act and that instructions for participating in the Zoom meeting were publicly posted.

Attendance: Suzanne Andrews, Lori Chambers, Steve Kitsko, Lisa Michaloski, Richard Miller, Steven Patrick, Nancy Zerbe, and Tyler Kandel (council liaison).

Guest Presenter: Historic preservation consultant Barton Ross of Barton Ross & Partners LLC

Public Comment: Metuchen resident Michael Loreti attended and expressed his appreciation for "what you all do for our community."

Review of Minutes: The minutes of the September 23, 2021, regular meeting were reviewed; Steve Kitsko/Suzanne Andrews (M/S/C, unanimous) to approve.

Historic Preservation Element of the Municipal Master Plan: Nancy Zerbe reported that on October 21, 2021, the Planning Board unanimously approved the 2021 Historic Preservation Plan Element for inclusion in the Borough of Metuchen Master Plan.

443 Middlesex Avenue: Nancy Zerbe reported that her purchase of 443 Middlesex Avenue, also known as the Nathan Robins House, a contributing resource in the Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District, closed on October 15, 2021, saving the 1896 house from possible demolition.

Presentation by Barton Ross: Historic preservation consultant Barton Ross, retained with the support of a grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust to draft a historic preservation ordinance for the borough, presented on the municipal context for historic preservation ordinances in New Jersey. Afterwards, the HPC:

- Asked questions and discussed issues raised by the presentation,
- Identified key decision points in the development of the draft ordinance,
- Discussed the value of consulting with staff members of the NJ Historic Preservation Office with experience in the Certified Local Government program, and
- Asked Mr. Ross to create for the HPC's review an outline of key considerations / decision points in developing the draft ordinance.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Lori Chambers
HPC Secretary