

Minutes of the Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee Regular Meeting
May 23, 2024

**Metuchen Borough Hall
500 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Metuchen, New Jersey**

Chair Nancy Zerbe called the May 23, 2024, regularly scheduled meeting of the Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) to order at 7:31 p.m. 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.

Attendance: Lori Chambers, Brian Keenan, Steve Patrick, Nancy Zerbe; and Tyler Kandel (council liaison)

Public Comment: Metuchen resident Michele LeGoff was in attendance to:

- Get information on the master plan reevaluation and the role of the HPC in that process
- Inquire about any contact from Preservation New Jersey on a walking tour of Metuchen
- Discuss the potential for articles related to historic preservation in upcoming issues of *The Metuchen Times*

Review of Minutes: The March 28, 2024, meeting minutes were reviewed; Brian Keenan/Steve Patrick (M/S/C, unanimous) to approve with edits as discussed. The April 25, 2024, meeting minutes were reviewed; Brian Keenan/Steve Patrick (M/S/C, unanimous) to approve.

Public Relations and Communications

Social Media: Nancy Zerbe has located the Facebook posts previously submitted by Lisa Michaloski and will process them. Nancy reported receiving two submissions from friends/neighbors showcasing projects to preserve and maintain their historic homes.

Historic District Signs: The historic district signs are set to be placed at Oak and Hillside avenues. The signs will be unveiled at a community event on June 3 at 5 p.m. at the Oak Avenue location. The borough will make a public announcement and provide video/photo coverage of the event. Committee members are encouraged to attend.

Walking Tours: Nancy updated committee members on the status of a potential walking tour of Metuchen in collaboration with Preservation New Jersey and the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society; following discussion via email, the parties are currently coordinating a meeting via Zoom. Committee members agreed that a fall event would be preferable to a summer event.

125th Anniversary of Metuchen: Nancy noted that 2026 marks the 125th anniversary of Metuchen's founding and hoped for a role for HPC in the celebrations.

Update of Historic Preservation Element of the Master Plan

In preparation for updating the historic preservation element of the Metuchen master plan, committee members conducted a preliminary discussion of needs, goals, and process. In particular, the list of demolished properties (current through March 2020) will need to be

updated with information from the borough; Tyler Kandel to determine the correct process for obtaining this information. Nancy noted that additional lists, inventories, and surveys in the element will also need to be updated; Nancy to identify relevant material to begin discussion of edits, updates, and improvements.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Lori Chambers, HPC Secretary

2024 Meetings: June 27, July 25, Aug 22, Sept 26, Oct 24, Dec 5