

**Minutes of the Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee Regular Meeting  
January 23, 2020**

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

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Chair Nancy Zerbe called the January 23, 2020 regularly scheduled meeting of the Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) to order at 7:31 p.m.

**Attendance:** Suzanne Andrews, Lori Chambers, Steven Patrick, Thomas Mullins, Nancy Zerbe; and Todd Pagel (council liaison)

**Public Comment:** No members of the public were present.

**Review of Minutes:** Review of the December minutes was deferred to the February meeting.

**Welcome of New Members:** New committee members Steven Patrick and Thomas Mullins were welcomed and provided with a review of the committee's current and pending work.

**Ongoing Business**

***Historic Preservation Element of the Municipal Master Plan:*** The Committee discussed the current status of the draft element and addressed a few outstanding issues, including the need for higher-resolution photographs, the transfer of the historic resources inventories in Chapter 6.2 into a separate appendix, and various minor editorial changes. This round of revisions is to be submitted to the consultant and a revised draft provided for the Committee's review.

***Historic District Signage:*** Todd Pagel requested an electronic version of the signage we are recommending for the Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District to share with the borough.

**New Business**

***New Jersey Historic Trust Grant:*** Nancy Zerbe reported meeting with the borough's grant writer to discuss applying to this year's grant program; grant applications are due April 23. After discussing potential grant projects, the committee agreed to prioritize professional assistance with the development of a draft historic preservation ordinance. Members also discussed individuals and organizations that might provide letters of support for a grant application, including the Metuchen Downtown Alliance, Chamber of Commerce, Woodwild Park Association, Metuchen-Edison Historical Society, Historic Preservation Committee, Borough Improvement League, and Metuchen Arts Council.

**Old Business**

***Mary Wilkins Freeman House:*** This Lake Avenue house—the only extant house associated with the noted author during her writing career—was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on January 17, 2020.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Chambers, HPC secretary