

**Minutes of the Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee Regular Meeting
September 23, 2021**

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Chair Nancy Zerbe called the September 23, 2021, regularly scheduled meeting of the Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) to order at 7:34 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: Lori Chambers, Steve Kitsko, Richard Miller, Tommy Mullins, Steven Patrick, Nancy Zerbe, and Tyler Kandel (council liaison)

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

Review of Minutes: The minutes of the August 26, 2021, regular meeting were reviewed; Richard Miller/Steve Kitsko (M/S/C, unanimous) to approve, with one correction (i.e., the addition of Richard Miller to the attendance).

Municipal Land Use Law and Historic Preservation: Nancy Zerbe presented a "mini-workshop" on New Jersey's Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL) and its significance for historic preservation, including:

- The conservation of historic sites and districts as an objective for preventing urban sprawl and degradation of the environment;
- The role of municipal planning boards as stewards of master plans, including historic preservation plan elements;
- The validity of historic preservation ordinances that establish a process to evaluate, designate, and protect historic properties and districts in accordance with established criteria; and
- The two types of historic preservation commissions and their varying roles, structures, and responsibilities.

New Jersey Historic Trust Grant: The HPC discussed establishing a work plan with the consultant, Barton Ross; the HPC also reviewed its tasks in support of this work, including oversight and public outreach. As its first priority, the HPC established a subcommittee charged with recommending key contacts who could provide valuable insights to the consultant; subcommittee members are Nancy Zerbe, Suzanne Andrews, and Tyler Kandel.

Historic Preservation Element of the Municipal Master Plan: Nancy Zerbe reported that the element is under review by the borough administration and will soon go before the Planning Board.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Lori Chambers
HPC Secretary