

**Minutes of the Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee Special Meeting  
May 4, 2023**

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

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The May 4, 2023, special meeting of the Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) and Mayor Jonathan Busch provided an opportunity for discussion of several historic preservation issues currently before the borough. Chair Nancy Zerbe called the special meeting 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:** Suzanne Andrews, Lori Chambers, Brian Keenan, Alex Malvone, William McDuffie, Steve Patrick, Nancy Zerbe; Tyler Kandel (council liaison); and Jonathan Busch (mayor).

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

**Chair's Opening Statement**

Chair Nancy Zerbe noted the committee's dedication to historic preservation in Metuchen and reviewed our 15-year history of grant-funded historic preservation initiatives that have laid the foundation for the draft historic preservation ordinance currently before the borough. She noted that, with community concern over recent demolitions and threats to several historic properties, it may be an ideal time to introduce the draft ordinance publicly. In fact, many of the properties now eliciting public concern have been identified as worthy of protection in our own Master Plan.

**Mayor Busch's Response**

Mayor Busch stated that the borough is interested in considering a historic preservation ordinance for Metuchen. He noted that Metuchen currently has "a lot of wind in its sails," citing the 2023 Great American Main Street Award and several major capital projects, including the Forum Theatre / Arts District, Edgar School refurbishment, and a new EMS center.

He stated that this fall/winter is the best time for the rollout of the ordinance. He advised that the HPC should research and develop a well-planned communications strategy as a foundation for a robust community discussion.

**Committee Discussion**

Committee members were provided an opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussions of relevant concerns with Mayor Busch.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the special meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Lori Chambers, HPC Secretary

**2023 Meetings**

May 18, June 22, July 27, Aug 24, Sept 28, Oct 26, Nov 30