

**Minutes of the Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee Regular Meeting  
November 30, 2023**

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

---

Chair Nancy Zerbe called the November 30, 2023, regularly scheduled meeting of the Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) to order at 7:32 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, Alex Malvone, Lisa Michaloski, Steve Patrick, Nancy Zerbe; and Tyler Kandel (council liaison)

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

**Review of Minutes:** The minutes of the September 28, 2023, regular meeting were reviewed; Brian Keenan/Alex Malvone (M/S/C, unanimous) to approve. No meeting was held in October, due to lack of quorum.

**Constituency Building:** Committee members continued discussion and follow-up of efforts to build a constituency in Metuchen for historic preservation. In particular, the committee discussed the need to continue developing talking points as a foundation for community outreach, including: a.) addressing issues of development and property rights; and b.) addressing historic preservation ordinances as having been thoroughly litigated and no different than zoning regulations. Brian to redistribute his document shared at a previous meeting, with a goal of updating the questions and developing answers to them.

**Public Relations and Communications**

*Social Media:* Nancy Zerbe reported an uptick in engagement with HPC posts; Brandon Uhlig attributes this to cross-interest from Metuchen Then & Now posts. Alex and Lisa offered to help with creating new HPC posts (content ideas include NJHT quotes, appreciation of Metuchen's historic architecture; community enrichment through historic preservation), while Lori will concentrate on the historic district.

*Historic District Signs:* The purchase of two signs marking the Woodwild Park–Middlesex Avenue Historic District has been approved; the signs will be placed in front of 64 Hillside Avenue off Main Street and in front of 48 Oak Avenue near the entrance to Woodwild Park.

**Draft Ordinance:** The committee discussed administrative requirements, scheduling issues, and undisbursed funds with regard to finalizing our grant work by the end of the funding period (February 2024). The committee also discussed process / next steps after the draft ordinance is finalized and shared with borough council. Committee members agreed to:

- Inquire of NJHT whether a brief, 30-day extension is possible.
- Review the latest version of the draft ordinance and provide comments to Nancy by January 4.
- Hold a special meeting on January 11 to discuss last changes to the draft ordinance.

**Other Business:** The committee briefly discussed:

- Partnering with other Metuchen organizations on municipal projects—for example, the arts district and “film-ready” Metuchen—where our historic architecture and neighborhoods are an asset.
- 2024 meeting schedule

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Lori Chambers, HPC Secretary