

**Minutes of the Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee Regular Meeting
September 28, 2023**

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

Chair Nancy Zerbe called the September 28, 2023, regularly scheduled meeting of the Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) to order at 7:35 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, Bill McDuffie, Lisa Michaloski, Nancy Zerbe; and Tyler Kandel (council liaison)

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

Review of Minutes: The minutes of the August 24, 2023, regular meeting were reviewed; Brian Keenan/Alex Malvone (M/S/C, unanimous) to approve.

Constituency Building: Follow-Up to August Meeting

Committee members discussed impressions and conclusions emerging from our August meeting, at which several Metuchen residents, attending as invited guests, engaged in a productive discussion of historic preservation issues with the committee. These points included:

- The need to identify and organize a cadre of pro-preservation allies. A good starting target might be residents of the Woodwild Park–Middlesex Avenue Historic District and the Lake Avenue area.
- The need to continue developing our talking points, including: a.) addressing issues of development and property rights; and b.) emphasizing that the appropriateness of historic preservation ordinances has been thoroughly litigated and, indeed, they are no different than zoning regulations.
- The possibility of asking our August meeting guests to review Metuchen's draft ordinance and provide their impressions.
- The need to continue identifying residents' concerns in regards to the draft ordinance and demonstrating that we have addressed / explained these concerns.

Public Relations and Communications

Social Media: The committee discussed the strategic opportunity to scale exposure through cross-posting and similar collaborations with other Metuchen social media outlets. Brian Keenan volunteered to reach out to the administrator of the Metuchen Then & Now Facebook group.

Historic District Signs: Brian Keenan, who had scouted possible locations for historic district signs on Oak Avenue and Hillside Avenue, shared photographs with the committee. The committee discussed and identified our preferred location for each of the two budgeted signs. Tyler Kandel will contact Jay Muldoon for next steps.

Other Business: The committee discussed possible candidates for the open position on our committee.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Lori Chambers, HPC Secretary

2023 Meetings: Oct 26, Nov 30