

## HAMBURG HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

July 26, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. This meeting was held in person at the Municipal Building located at 16 Walkill Avenue, Hamburg, New Jersey 07419.

Chairman Barr invited all in attendance to participate in the flag salute.

**Statement of Certification:** This meeting is in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, Sections 4 and 13, as advertised by Annual Notice.

**Roll Call:** Dan Barr, Thomas Graham, Charles McMickle and Art Walton. Absent: John Haig and Emily Banta. Councilman Richard Krasnomowitz was in attendance for Councilwoman Joyce Oehler. Wayne McCabe was not in attendance.

### **Chairman's Agenda:**

Chairman Barr and all present acknowledge the recent passing of Commission member Guy Harby and James Wright with a moment of silence. Guy Harby was dedicated to the Borough of Hamburg serving on the Land Use Board and the Historic Preservation Commission. He was a true asset to the Borough.

James Wright was a resident of Hardyston but shared an appreciation for Hamburg's history. Retired Police Chief Jan Wright, Mr. Wright's son, dedicated his father's framed poster from the late 1800s (approximately 1878) to the Borough. The poster depicts an advertisement for a local social event.

Chairman Barr discusses some of the former social halls in the Borough, some which succumbed to fire.

Former Mayor John Yanish also recently passed at the age of 101. Mr. Yanish's friendship with Johnny Cash led to a fundraiser to assist in the building of the fire department.

Another recent passing was Janet Rude who was a resident of the Borough since 1960 and served on the Hamburg Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary.

**Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2021:** A motion was made by McMickle, second by Walton to approve the minutes of January 25, 2021 with all others in favor.

### **Bills/Vouchers:**

No bills were on the agenda for payment.

### **Correspondence:**

- 2020 Annual Report submitted to Tingey on March 23, 2021

There was no comment on the correspondence.

**New/Unfinished Business:**

- 2021 CLG Grant Application response from NJDEP dated July 9, 2021

Chairman Barr indicates the Commission did not receive the grant funding. The State has only a certain amount of funds available and our property survey did not qualify for funding as proposed. We had received grant money in the past so that could have also factored into the State's decision not to grant the funding.

**Commission Training Session** – Dan Barr narrated the training session entitled “History of Hamburg” which featured a Power Point presentation prepared several years ago and presented to the students at Hamburg School as part of their local history lessons. The presentation focused on the street names throughout the Borough and the key residents behind those names and included narration and photos. Some residents that were the subject of discussion were:

- Joseph Walling - the first settler of the Borough and namesake for the original reference as Wallings
- Joseph Sharp - mill owner and namesake for Sharpsboro which eventually became known as Hamburg Borough
- Thomas Lawrence - first post office, changed name of Borough to Hamburg and raised funds to build what is now Route 23
- Daniel Haines – built church and served as New Jersey as Governor
- Richard Edsall – Senator and instrumental with establishing Main Street and the railroad
- Charles Linn – pharmacist
- Thomas Edison – although not a resident, he was involved in the building of the Wheatsworth Mill structure and hydraulic plant
- Joseph Urban – artist who built the Gingerbread Castle
- Reeve Harden – entrepreneur who started numerous businesses including a car business, broom factory, creamery, among others and established the first bank and fire department
- J.B. Pellett – town doctor
- Rennsealer Banks – lumber mill and developer

Gingerbread Castle related street names began in the 1950s.

A copy of the presentation outline is to be attached to the meeting minutes. The presentation includes additional details of early businesses, hotels, school system and churches in the Borough.

Additional developers of the Borough are discussed.

A motion is made at 8:15 p.m. by Graham, second by Walton with all others in favor to open to the public.

Mayor Marino adds that Holly Drive and Michael Court were named after developer Robert Bracken's children.

A motion is made at 8:16 p.m. by McMickle, second by Walton with all other in favor to close to the public.

A motion is made by Graham, second by McMickle at 8:18 p.m. to adjourn the meeting with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendy Brick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wendy Brick, Secretary  
Hamburg Historic Preservation Commission