



**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES/Summary**

February 19, 2026 – 6:15 PM
History Gallery | 141N Broadway
South Amboy, NJ 08879

CALL TO ORDER

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided under “The Open Public Meeting Act of New Jersey” by advertisement published in the Home News Tribune, on the City of South Amboy website, and posting on the information board at City Hall.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Szaro (Acting Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Farrell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Kelly
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jamie Norek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Szaro	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Lenahan (1st Alternate)

AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES n/a

NEW BUSINESS

- Introductions
- Election of Officers
 - Mary Szaro was elected as Chairperson
 - Mary Kelly was elected as Vice Chairperson
- 2026 Meeting Schedule
 - A quarterly meeting schedule was approved [Q1 Jan | Q2 April | Q3 Sept | Q4 Nov] with additional meetings called as needed
- Goals:
 - Reopen and review the Protection Firehouse application for final determination
 - Identify potential local designation opportunities
 - Establish South Amboy as a Certified Local Government (CLG) to strengthen the city’s ability to obtain, compete for, and leverage historic preservation grants
 - Eligible grant projects include architectural surveys and preparation of a Historic Preservation Element of a Municipal Master Plan (2027). The 2027 Certified Local Government grant round for Federal Fiscal Year 2026 accepts submissions between November 12, 2025, to March 31, 2026. [SAGE account needed].

- Initiate a Historic Structural Conditions Assessment (Existing Conditions) of Independence Firehouse to support long-term preservation planning, maintenance prioritization, and potential grant opportunities. A recommendation was made last year at the city’s Community Block Grant meeting, and will be raised again for the 2026 meeting.
- Education & Advocacy › Promote Historic Preservation Awareness
 - Launch a community engagement initiative to connect with residents via current city channels (Facebook, City’s HPC Webpage, etc.) to ensure a clear understanding of what HPC does and does NOT advise on, including an outline for commissioners & the community.
 - Establish Historic Property Plaque Program “Homes with History” in South Amboy. Voluntary plaque *recognition* for designated properties. Criteria TBD.
- Consider collaboration activities for 250th Anniversary COSA Celebration
- Plan for 2027
 - Explore Grants
 - Initiate a Historic Resources Inventory - survey-based list of historic properties, sites, structures, objects, and districts that have been documented locally. Places on a local historic inventory are usually *identified*, not automatically *designated* (the place has been identified as potentially historic). [South Amboy Historic Inventory 1978.pdf]

APPLICATIONS/ACTIONS: n/a

OLD BUSINESS: Protection Firehouse application

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments

ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting April 23, 2026