

**WARREN COUNTY BICENTENNIAL
CULTURAL & HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD**

500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue
Oxford, NJ 07863

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
February 18, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Rapisardi opened the meeting at 5:07 p.m., read the Open Public Meeting Notice, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Jane Primerano, Laurie Rapisardi, Nancy Miller, Charles Fineran

Members Absent: Jeanette Iurato

Staff Present: Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts, Elizabeth Roy, Gina Rosseland, Dennis Austin

Minutes: The January 21, 2020 minutes were reviewed. Ms. Primerano motioned, seconded by Ms. Rapisardi to approve the minutes as presented, with Mr. Fineran and Ms. Miller abstaining. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Bylaws - Mr. Tierney reviewed the proposed changes to the bylaws. Ms. Primerano motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to approve the revised bylaws as presented. Motion carried.

Committee Representatives

Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Ms. Primerano to appoint Ms. Miller as the Municipal and Charitable Conservancy Trust Fund Committee representative for the Board. Motion carried.

Ms. Rapisardi motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to appoint Ms. Primerano as the Warren Heritage Scenic Byway Committee representative for the Board. Motion carried.

Bicentennial Commemoration:

July 23rd Kickoff Event - Mr. Charlton has a verbal agreement with the Yankee Brass Band for the kickoff event announcing the County's bicentennial celebration. The church is excited to participate and agreed to be open that day for the attendees to use their bathrooms. Boy Scout/Girl Scout groups, local historical groups, and reenactors will be invited to participate, the Warren County Historical Society museum could be open, and the church could sell food as a fundraiser. At a minimum, the budget for applicable event expenses is expected to be approximately \$10,000 per year for the next five years, with surplus to be carried forward into following years. The Board members discussed preliminary sponsorship and fundraiser ideas. Some fundraiser ideas could be t-shirts, calendars, or reusable tote bags with the logo on one side and sponsors listed on the other.

Bicentennial Logo - The Board discussed hiring a graphic designer to come up with several ideas for a bicentennial celebration logo. Ms. Rapisardi motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to seek and hire a graphic designer to create a logo for the celebration, not to exceed \$1,000. Motion carried.

A photography or art contest could be held, with winners being included in a fundraiser calendar. Mr. Charlton can reach out to local art teachers to possibly include the contest in next year's school curriculum.

Website/Facebook Page - The bicentennial website & Facebook page could be included as a page on the new County website/Facebook or its own standalone website/Facebook. Both options were

discussed; Mr. Tierney received estimates and some suggested domain names for the website URLs from the website designer that the Department uses for other projects. The Board agreed this should be tabled until Mr. Charlton could be included in the discussion.

Historical Signage - Mr. Tierney thought the bicentennial celebration would be a good opportunity to update some of historical signage throughout the county and/or have signs created for locations that don't currently have them. He distributed some photos of signage throughout our county and some neighboring counties. Many of the signs in Warren County were funded through the previous Cultural & Heritage Commission. There are highways standards for some signs, which will need to be looked into. State funds could possibly be leveraged and regranted to historic groups for the project. A list of historic sites with signage can be provided for the next meeting.

National Bicentennial Farm - Mr. Tierney suggested perhaps the CADB can assist with nominating a Warren County farm that has been in the family for at least 200 years. The farm can be recognized with bicentennial signage and if applicable, their farm can be advertised on the Grown in Warren website.

Heritage Weekend - Ms. Rapisardi suggested planning the Heritage Weekend sometime in the fall when all historical sites and museums can be open for visitation. All locations and their hours can be included on an interactive story map, so people can decide which places they wanted to visit on which days. The County has the capability to do the mapping, but needs the human resources, data, and time to enter all of the information. The mapping can be built as part of the Bicentennial celebration, but it will continue as a resource past the event. Holiday events can also be marketed during the Heritage Weekend. It was suggested a table in the Freeholder Building at the Farmers' Fair be dedicated to bicentennial information and events; rack cards could be made to advertise the Heritage Weekend. Board members will brainstorm ideas for the fair.

Mr. Fineran left the meeting at 6:08 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Museum Operations:

Ms. Rosseland has been working with local groups to fill the schedule. The museum is open the first two Sundays of each month from April through December. In addition to the schedule below, there are several other speakers or demonstrators that may be added once Ms. Rosseland receives confirmation. She would like to get someone in full Town Crier costume to read the Declaration of Independence on July 4th.

- March 29th at 2pm, Jan Hunold will present, "Jersey Girls in the Women's Suffrage Movement" in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment.
- April 5th - official opening day of the museum.
- May 3rd (11am-4pm): Civil War Day at the Manor with the 27th Regiment and Surgical Unit and tours of the Manor.
- August 9th (1-4pm): Museum tours; Jeremiah Apgar of Washington Borough Historical Society will be speaking at 2pm (LL Dining Hall) about the organ & piano manufacturing in Washington, NJ.
- September 6th (1-4pm): Regular museum tours; Dennis Sullivan, local historian, will be speaking about 18th and 19th c industry in Oxford at 2pm. (LL Dining Hall)
- September 13th (11a-4pm): American Revolution Day at Shippen with the 2nd NJ Regiment Helms Co. and tours of the Manor. (Schedule of events TBA)
- November 1st (1-4pm): 2nd Annual Crafts with Kids (1-3pm) and tours of the Museum (1-4pm). *Crafts activity for elementary (pre-K to 8th grade) kids! (free event)
- November 8th (11a-4pm): Civil War Day with the 27th Regiment & tours of the Manor.
- December 6th (1, 2, & 3pm tours): Victorian Candlelight Christmas Tour at the Manor
- December 13th (1, 2, & 3pm tours): Victorian Candlelight Christmas Tour at the Manor

Long-Term Loans - Long-term loans of historic machines and farm equipment are being finalized with Millbrook Village and Ramsaysburg Homestead.

Volunteers - Ms. Rosseland interviewed two new volunteers since the last meeting. One will start as a greeter and the other will be assisting with photography.

County History Partnership Program - The County's final report for the 2019 grant was submitted; the state commended the county for their excellent narrative. The 2020 grant application is now available for \$1,000 grants. This year's grant will continue to focus on social media and website building, but can also include funding for historic programming.

Shippen Manor Restoration - The contract was awarded for the exterior restoration of Shippen Manor for \$225,000. A pre-construction meeting will be held prior to work beginning.

County Arts Program: Mr. Austin distributed details on the 2019 regrantees, such as amount of activities that were held, number of adults, kids, and artists who participated, and how many individuals benefitted from the programs. He also listed what types of activities were organized (music, arts, theater, etc.).

Local Arts Program: Similar information was provided for the 2019 LAP grant (Regrantees, Mini-grants, Teen Arts program, Summer Concert Series, Senior Residences performers, Skylands Photo Contest).

Bloomsbury Dam: A letter was sent by the US Army Corps of Engineers to Cultural & Heritage Affairs regarding the removal of the Bloomsbury Dam as part of their Ecosystem Restoration Project. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed that there was no evidence that the dam had any historical significance. Ms. Rapisardi motioned, seconded by Ms. Miller to decline participation as a consulting party in regards to the removal of the Bloomsbury Dam. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Rapisardi announced her resignation from Rutherford Hall and said that she has accepted a position with Hackettstown Business Improvement District (BID).

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2020 at Warren Heritage Museum/Bread Lock Park (tour at 4 pm; meeting at 5 pm).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Roberts
Administrative Clerk