

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

500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue
Oxford, NJ 07863

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
April 21, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Rapisardi opened the meeting at 5:04 p.m. and read the Open Public Meeting Notice.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Laurie Rapisardi, Jane Primerano, Ingrid Gray, Nancy Miller, Charles Fineran, Jeanette Iurato

Guests Present: Richard Gardner

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

Minutes: The February 18, 2020 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Ms. Miller to approve the minutes as presented, with Ms. Gray and Ms. Iurato abstaining. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

New Members

Freeholder Gardner and the Board welcomed Ms. Gray and Mr. Metroke (in his absence). Ms. Gray provided an overview of her background and experience as a retired high school English teacher, board member of the Pohatcong History and Heritage Society, and a member of her township council.

OLD BUSINESS

County Museums and CHPP Grant

Ms. Rosseland rescheduled the Women's Suffrage Talk on March 29th to October and has canceled any upcoming museum events until further notice. Ms. Rosseland has been posting on the Shippen Manor Facebook page regularly to keep the public engaged.

2020 CHPP Grant applications are under review; the state has released the first round of funds.

Rehabilitation of the manor is underway. Workers are practicing social distancing and wearing masks. There is an exception in the Governor's Order that construction can continue under restrictions. They are all working on separate tasks at the site.

Ms. Rosseland attended the NJ Historic Commission virtual meeting. They discussed how people are dealing with Covid-19. Ms. Rosseland would like to document this period in history to share publicly in a positive manner. She is requesting any pictures of people dealing with the stay-at-home measures on day-to-day basis and pictures of frontline workers be submitted to her via email.

Hospitality training was discussed. Volunteers and docents should be friendly, welcoming, and knowledgeable about the site.

At the February meeting, the Board had the opportunity to tour Shippen Manor with one of the docents, prior to last meeting. The tours of Port Warren/Plane 9 and Bread Lock Park will be rescheduled when things get back to normal.

Arts Grants

Documentation has been submitted to the state and this year's Arts Grant funding has come in. Warren County Community Singers still plan to offer their sponsorship this summer. Mr. Tierney said they are monitoring the situation with the lawn concert series to determine if they can still be held.

Bicentennial Commemoration

Bicentennial Logo - The Board agreed to hire a graphic designer to develop a logo, not to exceed \$1,000. Mr. Tierney shared a conceptual logo with Mr. Charlton and Ms. Rapisardi and will share with the group. Ms. Gray also suggested having Mr. Margulies look at the logo since he has graphic design experience.

Mr. Gardner inquired about a historical booklet for distribution to the public. Mr. Fineran suggested reaching out to historical societies for their historical and possibly financial contribution towards the booklet. The one Mr. Gardner has from Washington Borough's event is 175 pages. The online Arc GIS Story Map can elaborate with more extensive information than the booklet will be able to. The booklet can also incorporate pictures from Covid-19 project Ms. Rosseland is working on to include a modern history aspect.

Lulu Press - Ms. Gray suggested using Lulu Press, a publishing company online where you upload a picture and they print for very reasonable prices. Bicentennial information – organize by theme or focused on specific topics. Provide outline for municipalities and include pictures of featured sites.

July 23rd Kickoff Event – Mr. Charlton said he's spoken to the band and the church regarding the event. The band will need to decide by May. Everything else is still currently on hold. Since the event is outside, people will still be able to practice social distancing. Ms. Iurato said Blairstown canceled their August event due to lack of sponsorship. Most events are canceled through August with large groups of people being too risky.

Mr. Gardner doesn't agree with Governor's orders to close the County and State parks. He feels that people living in the same house should be able to visit the parks together to get outside for relief.

Ms. Iurato has a contact in the Governor's office that said the restrictions will be lifted as they were instated, so large gatherings will likely be last to be allowed. There may not be enough time to advertise the event.

Ms. Gray suggested developing a driving trail/tour for people to learn about history without having to walk or hike. Mr. Tierney said they are working on the Story Map with Arc GIS. The National Geographic Wild and Scenic Delaware website wasn't as active as they had hoped. The challenge is getting local groups to contribute their information and what platform they will share it on. Have Mr. Charlton can post on County Facebook page and Explore Warren, or possibly the Scenic Byway if applicable.

Ms. Primerano said pushing everything to fall could be dangerous since all other events are being pushed to the fall, as well. Mr. Charlton suggested waiting until next month to decide since they should have a better handle on the pandemic situation by then. Ms. Rapisardi motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to table the decision until the May meeting on whether to hold the July 23rd event or cancel it. Motion carried.

Freeholder Gardner left the meeting at 6:17 pm

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 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.

Ms. Rosseland has a list of historic sites in the office. The Board discussed which weekend to plan on for the Heritage Weekend. Ms. Gray said their historic house tour is always held on the 3rd Saturday of October, so that weekend should probably be avoided. Columbus Day weekend should also be avoided since its Sussex County Heritage Weekend. Ms. Rapisardi will check with Sussex County to see if they want to have a collaborative event instead.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2020 at 5:00 pm via WebEx.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Roberts
Administrative Clerk