

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

500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue
Oxford, NJ 07863

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
February 16, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Ms. Rapisardi opened the meeting at 5:02 p.m. and read the Open Public Meeting Notice and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Laurie Rapisardi, Jane Primerano, Charles Fineran, Jeanette Iurato, Rick Gardner, Nancy Miller

Staff Present: Corey Tierney, Gina Rosseland, Dennis Austin, Art Charlton

Minutes: The January 19, 2021 minutes were reviewed. Ms. Miller noted that on the second page had Ms. Fineran instead of Mr. Fineran. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Ms. Miller to approve the minutes as revised while Mr. Gardner abstained. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CORRESPONDENCE

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Gardner was welcomed by the BCHAB as a new member. Mr. Gardner said he was excited to become a regular member.

OLD BUSINESS

Bicentennial Commemoration

Book – Ms. Iurato said that the subcommittee was unable to meet due to weather and personal issues but was able to speak with the Blairstown Committee meeting to discuss the book and the Advisory Board overall.

Ms. Rapisardi spoke about an email she had sent which expressed to the Board that she would like to see members attend Municipal and Historical Society meetings to generate awareness/ interest for the Bicentennial.

Website – Ms. Rosseland noted that she and Mr. Charlton passed along the Board suggestions to Granticus for the website. Ms. Rosseland noted that a "Donation" button and a "Get Involved" button were added, and that she and Mr. Charlton have been taking trainings to add metadata to the website. Ms. Rosseland said that the website will not be done until 1-2 months after the new County website is completed.

Ms. Rosseland asked the board to review their Mission Statement and establish a Purpose Statement so that it can be added to the website.

Mr. Charlton explained that the Finance Department and Commissioners would need to authorize item sales on the website, and that there is a PayPal account available for use from the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Tierney said he spoke with the Treasurer and noted that there is an

account for the monies collected, but that he needed to speak with the County Administrator and Counsel about the "Store" and Statement of Purpose (Authorizing Statement).

Ms. Rapisardi explained that the Board did have a Mission Statement in the By-Laws but that they would need to create a Statement of Purpose.

Mr. Charlton said that he had sent an email to each of the Township Clerks requesting photos of the Town Hall or a feature of their town for the website. Mr. Charlton also noted that he had requested photos and short video clips from the municipalities to create commercials for the County from the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Fineran asked Mr. Charlton if photo montages could be created for each of the municipalities for the website instead of just a single picture. Mr. Charlton replied that it may be okay for the Economic Development Committee but the new website would not have the room for more than one photo each.

Logo – Ms. Rapisardi explained that once the logo gets out on shirts, mugs, and other promotional items, it will help with raising awareness and funds for the cause. Ms. Rapisardi noted that she had been researching printing companies for these items and will continue to do so.

Historic Markers – Mr. Tierney noted that this would be a good opportunity not only to install new signs, but to replace older signs as well. Mr. Tierney asked the board their thoughts on limiting the signs to historic districts or open to any historic site. Mr. Fineran said he thought it would be great to add a log/database of current events that will be considered "history" for the next generation of Warren County residents.

Mr. Gardner said that the Board needs to be flexible with eligibility of historic sites as municipalities begin to apply, and continue research into facets of history the Board is currently unaware of.

Mr. Tierney asked the Board if they should consider a match-based program with the municipalities to split costs for the markers. Ms. Iurato agreed with Mr. Tierney that the cost share be 50/50 up to \$500. Mr. Gardner noted that this should be presented to the municipalities rather soon if they are looking for municipal cost sharing.

Mr. Tierney reiterated that the last time the markers were discussed they were to be the traditional brass markers. Mr. Tierney asked if the County should be recognized on the marker and the Board agreed that the County should be noted on the marker.

Mr. Tierney noted that the Land Preservation Department will begin creating a Resolution, as well as policies, procedures, and deadlines for the 50/50 grant for the municipalities.

NEW BUSINESS

County Museums and CHPP Grant

CHPP Grants – Mr. Tierney noted that he and the Board should direct interpretive signage to the CHPP Grant program and keep the Bicentennial signage separate.

Ms. Rosseland announced that there will be an additional \$10,000 in funding from the State for CHPP Grants and that herself and Mr. Tierney decided to increase the first-round payout to \$2,500. Ms. Rosseland noted that there were 11 applicants scheduled for the workshop and that the deadline for the grants is Friday, February 26th.

County Museums – Ms. Rosseland noted that the copper gutter recently installed at Shippen Manor was damaged due to the ice. Ms. Rosseland noted that Buildings and Grounds came to knock down the ice but that the gutter did appear to be slightly damaged.

Ms. Rosseland expressed her concerns with the liabilities associated with visitor's parking and sleigh riding at the Shippen Manor. Ms. Rosseland noted that she and Mr. Tierney decided to have the Sign Department make signs to hang seasonally to stop sleigh riders from blocking the fire lane. Ms. Rosseland noted that she and Mr. Tierney are hoping to install a snow fence to keep visitors off the stage area in the winter.

Mr. Gardner expressed similar concerns over liability. Ms. Rosseland questioned about whether or not recreation like sleigh riding was actually permitted at Shippen Manor and similar sites. Mr. Tierney noted that NJ open space and park land is statutorily protected under the NJ Landowner Liability Act.

Ms. Rosseland noted that she has started a tentative schedule for Shippen Manor to be open to the public if they are able to due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Ms. Rosseland also discussed having speakers video tape speeches/discussions if Shippen Manor is not able to be open to the public.

Mr. Tierney requested that the Board make a determination on whether or not to accept the Cornish Bible that was offered.

Mr. Gardner motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran, to accept the Bible and have it protected and prominently displayed as a historical piece. Motion carried.

County Arts

Art Grant – Mr. Austin noted that there 20 applicants for the 2021 Art Grant and that one applicant was encouraged for the mini-grant instead of the regular grant.

Concert Series – Mr. Austin explained that there had been inquiries about the concerts this year but expects they will likely be virtual. Mr. Austin explained that there had been assistance offered from Knowlton Township to have concerts at Ramseyburg with seating areas marked off, mask requirements, and social distancing. Mr. Austin also noted that Knowlton had great success with their concerts being held with these parameters.

NJ Council of the Arts – Mr. Austin noted that the contract has been sent for the 2021 year. Mr. Austin said he will be collaborating with Porsha Harding of the Council to plan alternative events during the pandemic.

2020 Final Report – Mr. Austin noted that the report has not been finalized yet as late reports are still coming in and it cannot be accomplished without all the reports.

Teen Arts 2021 – Mr. Austin explained that Teen Arts will likely be virtual for 2021.

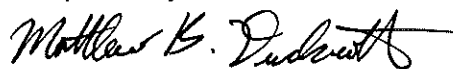
PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2021 at 5:00 pm via WebEx.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Ms. Iurato to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Matthew B. Duckworth
Community Service Aide