

**THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**

Wayne Dumont, Jr., Administration Building
165 County Route 519 South
Belvidere, NJ 07823

RESOLUTION 276-19

On motion by **Mr. Kern**, seconded by **Mr. Gardner**, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held May 22, 2019.

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE WARREN COUNTY
BICENTENNIAL CULTURAL AND HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD**

WHEREAS, the year 2025 is the 200th anniversary of the establishment of Warren County as a distinct political entity, and many special events will take place to recognize Warren County's rich history and culture; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders (the "Freeholder Board") encourages public commemoration of this important bicentennial anniversary through activities that educate the populace of Warren County's history and heritage; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its numerous historic districts, Warren County has many splendid historic and cultural sites, including Asbury Mill, Hoff Vannatta Farmstead, Ramsayburg Homestead, Roseberry House, Rutherford Hall, the Vass House, and many more, which serve as community centers for residents and tourism destinations for visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County government also owns significant historic places at various locations around the county, including the Shippen Manor Museum, the Morris Canal Greenway, the Warren Heritage Scenic Byway, and more, which the Board desires to maintain to the highest standard for the benefit of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, according to the New Jersey Historic Trust's 2013 report 'The Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Heritage Tourism in New Jersey', heritage tourism "plays an important economic role by generating spending by millions of visitors to these attractions [and] spending [by] these visitors sustains thousands of jobs and generates millions in economic activity and state and local tax receipts"; and

WHEREAS, according to the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, in addition to many other attendant community benefits, the arts "have proven themselves to be powerful engines to support the growth and development of healthy and economically viable communities" because not only do "art work and the arts institutions themselves provide and support other jobs, make downtowns more attractive to people and other businesses, [and serve as] catalysts for bringing people and neighborhoods together", but they are also "a vital and growing sector of the travel and tourism industry, New Jersey's 2nd largest industry... support other fields such as advertising, printing, food and design... [and] are frequently cited among the top reasons why corporations locate, stay and expand because they are key to attracting and retaining the highly skilled workforce that industry demands"; and

WHEREAS, the Freeholder Board desires to develop programs to promote public interest in local and county history, in the arts, and in the cultural values, goals and traditions of the community, the State and the Nation by working directly with arts and historical organizations, schools, religious organizations, service clubs, municipal governments and other interested groups and individuals in order to serve all residents; and

WHEREAS, to further the above purposes, the Freeholder Board desires to create a Bicentennial Cultural and Heritage Advisory Board (the "Advisory Board") composed of not less than five residents of Warren County and not more than seven residents of Warren County to be appointed by the Freeholder Board;

WHEREAS, of those Advisory Board members, the first three members appointed shall serve an initial term of three years, the fourth and sixth members appointed shall serve an initial term of two-years, and the fifth and seventh members appointed shall serve an initial term of one year, with all members serving three-year terms thereafter; and

WHEREAS, vacancies on the Advisory Board shall be filled in the same manner for the unexpired term and the members shall serve without compensation, but with the prior approval of the Freeholder Board they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Board shall organize as soon as practicable following appointment of its members and shall endeavor to meet regularly on a monthly basis thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Board shall be responsible to make recommendations to the Freeholder Board for the development of county programs to promote public interest in local and county history, in the arts, and in the cultural values, goals and traditions of the community, the State and the Nation, and to make recommendations for the restoration, operation, maintenance and preservation of real property acquired by the County and managed under the County's Department of Land Preservation; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Board shall be responsible to make recommendations to the Freeholder Board for: establishing museum and cultural programs, exhibits and displays including the fine and performing arts; engage in archeological, genealogical and historical research; publishing reports and engaging in such related activities to promote and develop public interest and understanding of historic and cultural matters; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Board shall be responsible to make recommendations to the Freeholder Board that the county apply for and accept any gifts, grants or bequests, including any grants from (1) the Federal Government or any agency thereof, (2) the government of the State of New Jersey or any of its agencies, instrumentalities or political subdivisions, or (3) any foundation, corporation, association or individual for the purposes set forth above; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders establishes a seven-member Warren County Bicentennial Cultural and Heritage Advisory Board on this day, May 22, 2019, for the purposes set forth above.

RECORDED VOTE: Mr. Kern yes, Mr. Gardner yes, Mr. Sarnoski yes

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.


Holly Luberto

, Deputy Clerk