

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

500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue
Oxford, NJ 07863

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
January 19, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Tierney opened the meeting at 5:05 p.m. and read the Open Public Meeting Notice.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Laurie Rapisardi, Jane Primerano, Charles Fineran, Jeanette Iurato, County Commissioner James Kern (Liaison)

Members Absent: John Metroke, Nancy Miller

Staff Present: Corey Tierney, Gina Rosseland, Dennis Austin

Public Present: Richard Gardner, Christine Beegle

REORGANIZATION:

Mr. Tierney invited nominations for Chairperson. Ms. Primerano motioned to nominate Laurie Rapisardi for Chairperson. Motion was seconded by Mr. Fineran. No other nominations were made. Motion approved.

Mr. Tierney turned the meeting over to Chairperson Rapisardi.

Ms. Rapisardi invited nominations for Vice Chairperson. Ms. Primerano motioned to nominate Charles Fineran for Vice Chairperson. Motion was seconded by Ms. Iurato. No other nominations were made. Motion approved.

Ms. Rapisardi invited nominations for Secretary. Mr. Fineran motioned to nominate Jane Primerano for Secretary. Motion was seconded by Ms. Iurato. No other nominations were made. Motion approved.

Minutes: The November 17, 2020 were reviewed. Mr. Fineran motioned to approve the minutes of November 17, 2020. Motion was seconded Ms. Primerano. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ms. Rapisardi opened the floor to public comment on agenda items. No public comments were made.

CORRESPONDENCE: No correspondence noted.

Ms. Rapisardi invited Mr. Kern to address the board. Mr. Kern had been on the line previously, but was unable to be heard. Mr. Tierney explained that the County Commissioners realigned responsibilities at their reorganization meeting and Mr. Kern will be serving as the board's liaison.

Ms. Rapisardi asked Mr. Tierney about Mr. Gardner interest in serving on the board. Mr. Tierney stated that the appointment is made by the County Commissioners. He will inquire with the Commissioners and report back.

OLD BUSINESS

Bicentennial Commemoration

Ms. Iurato said that Blairstown would like to install two brass plaques cemetery, for example, and thought it would be helpful if the towns could apply to state for interpretive signs and also apply to the county for some funding towards historic markers and plaques not covered by the state grants.

Mr. Gardner stated he agrees with Ms. Iurato and that with the towns chipping in for the signs, it bodes well for them and is a good approach. Mr. Fineran agreed.

Ms. Iurato made a motion to request the Board of County Commissioners allocate bicentennial funding for the BCHAB to assist municipalities with historic signage with grants up to \$500, with the understanding that the municipalities will also be encouraged to apply to the CHPP for interpretive signage. Mr. Fineran seconded. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS

County Museums and CHPP Grant

Museum and Arts Program updates were mailed out with the agenda for review prior to the meeting.

Ms. Rosseland stated that the county is in the preparing for the next round of CHPP grants (2021 round). For 2021, the county received \$25,000 in funding which is \$10,000 more from last year. The county used the balance of 2020 funds for webinars about conserving artifacts with Gary McGowan. Ms. Rosseland said that she has had nothing but positive responses to his webinars and would like to use any remaining 2021 funds for additional webinars/workshops.

Ms. Rosseland said shed receive an inquiry from a paranormal expert about Shippen Manor and another inquiry from someone writing a book about the ghosts at Shippen. Ms. Rosseland has responded that this isn't where her focus is. She would like to get information accessible for the schools to use when they do New Jersey and local history portions of social studies. The manor remains closed to the public. She has also been posting local history pictures and information on the Shippen Manor Facebook page two to five times per week; these posts have been receiving a lot of public interest.

Ms. Rosseland noted that some painting remains to be done by the restoration contractor. Ms. Rosseland also recognized the New Jersey Youth Corps for doing a beautiful job decorating the manor. She added that the Youth Corps may be able to help with documenting/mapping historic sites on google maps, as well as helping to recreate the walkway bollards. Mr. Metroke and Ms. Rosseland agreed to investigate what's triggering the manor's alarm system.

Mr. Gardner stated that the holiday decorations at Shippen Manor looked great.

Mr. Fineran left the meeting (6:20pm)

Mr. Metroke left the meeting (6:25pm)

Ms. Rapisardi commended Ms. Rosseland for doing a great job and keeping busy.

Arts Grants - Mr. Austin referred to his report and stated 2020 had a negative effect on some regrantees. They had the Warren County Arts Grant Panel meeting virtually. They had 20 applicants for 2021; one applicant will be asked to apply for a mini-grant. He expects to hold some in-person concerts and will be hiring people to help monitor mask and social distancing for safety. Mr. Austin has 75% of the grant applications, but is waiting for some to return evaluations. Teen Arts 2021 will not be in-person, but rather will be virtual with some people leading workshops. Warren County received \$5,000 extra from the NJ State Council on the Arts, but there are strings attached as to how the state would like things done, not accounting for our rural nature. The state liaison Portia Hardy, will come up with some new ideas for us that will be well handled in the virtual manner.

Mr. Austin shared the sad news that Steve Miller passed away. He was a very talented musician who played multiple instruments and played at Shippen Manor many times over the past two decades. Ms. Rapisardi offered her condolences.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ms. Rapisardi opened the floor to public comments. There were no public comments made.

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

Adjournment: There being no further business, Ms. Primerano motioned, seconded by Ms. Iurato to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Corey Tierney', written in a cursive style.

Corey Tierney
Director, Land Preservation Department