

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

500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue  
Oxford, NJ 07863

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
July 20, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Rapisardi opened the meeting at 5:06 p.m. and read the Open Public Meeting Notice and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**Staff Present:** Corey Tierney, Gina Rosseland, Dennis Austin

**Guests Present:** Julie Golt

**Minutes:** The June 15, 2021 minutes were reviewed. Ms. Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran, to approve the minutes as read as Ms. Rapisardi abstained due to her absence at the June meeting. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**NJ Department of Transportation – Replacement of Bridge over Route 31 (Furnace Brook)**

Mr. Tierney received an invitation for comment from the NJ Department of Transportation inviting the Board to comment on the replacement of the bridge over the Furnace Brook in Oxford on Route 31. Ms. Miller noted that there was no comment for her as long as nothing was to be disturbed during the project. Mr. Tierney had it noted for the record that there were no official comment from the Board and explained that the State Historic Preservation Office was involved with the project.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Bicentennial Commemoration**

Book – Ms. Primerano explained that herself and Ms. Iurato met and finalized the list of topics for the book into two categories: those that the municipalities will write and be responsible for; and the county and regional topics that the Board subcommittee will be responsible for. Ms. Primerano noted that the list needs to be finalized a bit more and then it will be ready to distribute to the Board.

Ms. Miller explained that she had been conducting research at the Warren County Library branches and was able to find information about taverns and stagecoaches at the Northeast Branch in Independence Township. Ms. Miller said that there was a stagecoach path that went through Franklin Township where she lives, but the main path through Warren County was where Route 519 is today. Ms. Miller also said that many travelers went to Philadelphia via Old York Road in Bridgewater-Raritan.

Website – Ms. Rosseland explained that she is still working on the website and that she has it about 75% completed.

Historic Markers – Ms. Rosseland explained that she had begun working on the application for the municipalities to apply for the markers but has been sidelined trying to finish the website by the deadline.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **County Museums and CHPP Grant**

County Museums – Ms. Rosseland noted that there had been a lot of things taking place at the Manor and the Furnace in the past month. Ms. Rosseland explained that the Manor is currently without air conditioning and that there were many artifacts found while clearing the basement for the HVAC technician so he can make repairs. Ms. Rosseland said that many of the artifacts date back to 1989-1990 when the Manor first became a County site. Ms. Rosseland thanked the staff and Parks Foundation members who came to help clear out the basement.

Ms. Rosseland announced that she is still working with the National Museum of Industrial History in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania on their industrial exhibit and will be loaning a 20 pound piece of iron slag.

Ms. Rosseland noted that Tom Lizzi has been working outside cutting back the brush on the upper driveway. Ms. Rosseland said that John Metroke has been doing an outstanding job cleaning up and clearing weeds at the Furnace. Ms. Rosseland said that the wall will likely be fixed by the Bridge Department in the fall. Ms. Rosseland explained that Buildings and Grounds has caught two more groundhogs under the boardwalk.

Review of CHPP Grant Applicants – Ms. Rosseland announced that Round 2 has closed and the applications had sent to the panel to be reviewed. Ms. Rosseland noted that she is looking to have the applicant scores back from the review panel by the end of July. Ms. Rosseland explained that each group asked for \$1,500 and that it put the grant in a deficit of \$177. Ms. Rosseland noted that to remediate the \$177 deficit, she will take the \$177 off the group that scores the lowest. Ms. Rosseland noted that if all groups score equally, she will take an equal \$29.50 from each group's award monies to erase the deficit.

Mr. Tierney explained that all of the group had been previously approved by the Board in Round 1 and that they would like a decision tonight in order to get it placed on the docket for the next County Commissioner meeting.

Ms. Miller noted that she thought it would be fairer to just take the \$29.50 off of each group instead of the \$177 off of only one group. Ms. Rosseland explained that in the past there have been some groups that have scored low from the review panel and that she does not think a group in that situation should get the same amount as those who scored well.

Ms. Primerano motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran, to recommend the Round 2 CHPP funding for the groups listed in the report. Motion carried.

### **County Arts**

Arts Grant – Mr. Austin noted that there is one regrantee on the docket currently and is working with them to make the necessary corrections before sending to the review panel.

Assisted Living Entertainment – Mr. Austin announced that assisted living program had begun again with musical artists travelling the County performing show tunes, pop, and country songs. Mr. Austin said that there is accordionist, a guitar player, two folk musicians, and a banjo player participating in the entertainment throughout the County's assisted living facilities.

Farmers' Fair Entertainment – Mr. Austin noted that he has many musicians and events scheduled for the Fair, including the Seniors' Square Dance on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, a strolling banjo player on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, a strolling barbershop quartet on August 5<sup>th</sup>, and an accordion player on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>.

Teen Arts 2021 – Mr. Austin noted that Teen Arts will begin in the fall this year and that instead of a group meeting, grant monies will be distributed to applying school art programs to use in their classrooms for new activities and/or equipment. Ms. Miller asked how participants could apply. Mr. Austin noted that applicants need to send a description of the project, along with a proposed budget, goals for the project, etc. Mr. Austin explained that the Teen Arts grants will begin at \$1,000 each and that it will likely increase due to extra monies coming in from the State. Ms. Miller asked if music teachers could apply. Mr. Austin said the grants are for the arts overall and that it is wide open in terms of eligibility.

Mr. Austin explained that the NJ State Council on the Arts considering doubling the grant award for 2022 and that he was unsure whether he would be able to find enough areas to utilize all of the funding. Mr. Austin said he will be meeting with Mr. Tierney and John Metroke to find other avenues to disperse funding.

Shippen Manor Concerts – Mr. Austin also announced that the Shippen Manor Lawn Concerts will return on Sundays from August 1<sup>st</sup> to September 5<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Farmers' Fair Booth – Ms. Rapisardi asked if the Board will be participating at the Fair this year. Mr. Tierney explained that along with the performances, the Department of Land Preservation will have a booth in the County building and that Ms. Rosseland is working to compile BCHAB materials to display. Ms. Rapisardi suggested having an advertisement for the Bicentennial and plans for 2024-2025. Mr. Tierney noted he would speak with Art Charlton about the idea.

Meetings – Ms. Miller asked when in-person meetings would resume. Mr. Tierney explained that the County provided guidance that boards can choose to begin meeting in-person again or continue virtually. Mr. Fineran suggested going back to in-person with a phone line option in case someone is unable to attend in-person if it would help to have a quorum. Ms. Rapisardi suggested meeting one more time virtually in August and starting with in-person meetings in September.

Ms. Miller motioned, seconded by Ms. Primerano, to begin in-person meetings in September so long as the County museums are able to be open. Motion carried.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2021 at 5:00 pm via WebEx.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, Ms. Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran, to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Corey J. Tierney  
Director