

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

500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue  
Oxford, NJ 07863

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
August 15, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Rapisardi called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Laurie Rapisardi, Mark Young, Charles Fineran (left at 6:11 PM), Rick Gardner, Karin White, Jane Primerano (arrived 5:34 PM)

**Staff Present:** Corey Tierney, Kim Barnes, Gina Rosseland, Dennis Austin, Art Charlton, Commissioner Director Lori Ciesla

**MINUTES**

The July 18, 2023 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Gardner motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Young seconded. All in favor, minutes approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (agenda items only)**

none

**CORRESPONDENCE**

none

**OLD BUSINESS**

**BICENTENNIAL BOOK:**

Ms. Rosseland was not able to start working on it yet. Mr. Young thinks we should sell the books and will look into sponsorship for the book.

**WEBSITE:**

Ms. Rosseland put in for approval from Mr. Charlton for the bulletins to go live. She is at 550, has to get up to 1,000, so noted that updates will be added along the way. She also made links to people in the bulletins to outside resources for researchers. Ms. Rosseland has had a lot of people ask about genealogy lately and we do not have all that information at the museum. Once approved, it will be located under the History tab. Ms. Rosseland also will be adding bicentennial pictures to the page.

**HISTORIC MARKERS:**

Nothing new. Ms. Rosseland has still only received an application from Washington BID. She will send out reminders as the deadline is in a week or so for this round. Hope is still waiting for their sign to come in.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **OUTREACH EVENTS:**

#### **July 22, 2023, 2 PM Concert (Yankee Brass Band) -**

Mr. Young stated the Belvidere residents loved the concert. Mr. Fineran reported his tent was very active, the music was good, and it was a beautiful day. Ms. Rapisardi thought the attendance was lighter than last year. Mr. Charlton felt this could be due to it being on a Saturday this year and there was still storm cleanup occurring. Roads were still closed from the storm damage too. There were about 140-150 people. Mr. Charlton reported the band loved it and sent an email thanking us. Mr. Young asked about Humpty Jr's ice cream truck. It was well received, but Ms. Rosseland suggested they be in a different location. There were less kids this year, only a small handful. There will be another summer concert in 2024 before the 2025 bicentennial. Suggestions were made to move it back to a Thursday night. This year was advertised on Facebook and WRNJ radio. Next year there should be more paid advertising and utilize Facebook more by joining and posting on all the township community pages. It was an older audience this year due to the music genre, so perhaps switch the genre for next year. The band TimeWhys (60s & 70s music) was suggested.

#### **National Night Out -**

As a group, we were at 5 events in the county. Mr. Young was in Belvidere, Ms. Ciesla was in Phillipsburg, Ms. Rapisardi and Ms. White were in Hackettstown, Ms. Rosseland was in Washington Twp, and Ms. Primerano was in Lopatcong. Washington Twp was very popular and crowded. Ms. Rosseland stated many people wanted to talk about history and Shippen Manor, and she already had visitors from NNO come to Shippen Manor. The QR code for bicentennial merchandise is being scanned. The wooden nickels were not very popular. The activity booklets went over well. Mr. Young stated all his rack cards were gone. The Eagle coloring page was a hit. Mr. Fineran stated we need to have things that both kids & adults like in order to entertain and educate all generations. Ms. Rosseland suggested a spinning wheel to win a bicentennial item. We need better swag. We had wooden nickels and crayons competing with water bottles. Washington Twp had a lot of sponsorships. Ms. Primerano shared that Pohatcong's NNO had no room. She spoke with a scout leader who loved the idea of having the scouts do something with the bicentennial. We should reach out to all the boy scout and girl scout troops.

#### **Lopatcong Community Day 8/26 -**

Ms. Ciesla will be out of town, but Mr. Gardner will try to attend.

#### **Alpha Harvest Festival -**

Alpha asked Ms. Rosseland to set up at their Harvest Festival in October and she said yes.

#### **Belvidere Victorian Day 9/9 -**

Mr. Charlton might have a table (not 100% committed) so maybe we could have the tables next to each other. Ms. Rosseland is not available. Mr. Young is not available to sit there the whole day. Ms. Primerano will be there, except when the singers perform. Mr. Fineran asked about having high school students volunteer to help. Students have to get community service hours. They could man a kids' activity table, have coloring, or face painting.

#### **History Trail 11/4 & 11/5 -**

Ms. Rosseland said Shippen Manor is scheduled for Sunday, 11/5 and BCHAB can set up a table on the porch. Ms. Primerano suggested setting up bicentennial material at all the stops along the trail. She will be stationed at the Hope Distillery.

Ms. Rapisardi suggested these events be sent out to the committee to coordinate attendance. Ms. Ciesla shared that Phillipsburg has an AP Gov't class that might be interested in helping with these

events. Ms. Rosseland will update the events list and add contacts if available and send it out for members to sign up.

### **Great Gatsby Gala, Sat 10/21 -**

This will be held at Rutherford Hall as a fundraiser. Cost is \$150 per ticket (per person) and includes 1 drink). Sales will be capped at 150-200 due to capacity and that is with tenting the patio. Mr. Charlton has booked the band for 3 hours (7pm-10pm), doors open at 6pm. Other entertainment will include classic ballroom dance lessons (the Charleston), a tap dancing performance to a 20's number, Dragonfly Productions will bring entertainers (choose from flame thrower, champagne lady, cigar/candy lady, flappers, stilt walkers, lady walking around with a selfie station). Dragonfly charges \$2,800 for all night. Mr. Charlton shared we could get flappers from Drew Nugent for charge of \$1,275 for 3 girls over 3 hours. Ms. Primerano states the piano at Rutherford Hall needs to be cleaned and tuned.

Ms. Rapisardi is ordering 9oz stemless wine glasses. Mama's will discuss the menu in the near future. They use another company to do the serving. That company suggested 2 bartenders, 5-6 servers. Mama's will provide the biodegradable utensils. Mr. Tierney is almost done with the EventBrite for the ticket sales. A flyer will be linked to our website and can be shared on Facebook. The board agreed to go live as soon as it is ready to go. Ms. Rosseland will include it on the Warren 200 page if there is room.

There will also be a silent auction during the gala to raise more money using all donated items (each member get a couple). Suggestions for donated auction items included golf, baskets including merchant gifts all from same town (ex. Belvidere – massage, haircut, mani/pedi, Thai Cuisine....), art from Jeff Echevarria, breweries, wine train tour and wine tasting, whiskey tasting, golfing (Harkers Hollow, Architects, Hawk Point), etc. Ms. Rapisardi will start an email so everyone knows which member is contacting which businesses.

We will get water and soda donated. We will have 2 signature drinks besides beer & wine. The county will pay for the liquor but the licensed bartenders will fall under the serving company. Discussed the host liquor license and liability insurance (about \$150).

Sponsorship packages will be discussed in further detail at a later time. You can choose one big sponsorship package or you can choose to sponsor just one event.

### **COUNTY MUSEUMS & CHPP GRANTS:**

#### **Notes from Ms. Rosseland -**

Ms. Rosseland received a large mass email from Sussex County Historical Groups regarding removing a Sussex/Warren stone border marker (from 1825) on Millbrook-Stillwater Rd. It is close to the road and on a slope. The desire to remove it is being led by Sussex/Stillwater. Mr. Gardner suggested digging it out and putting anchors under it. Surveyors still use the marker. Everyone was in agreement that it should be preserved but cost needs to be discussed. Ms. Rossendale has Victorian metal fencing at Shippen. Ms. Rosseland will send an email to Ms. Ciesla so the commissioners can have a say.

### **COUNTY ARTS PROGRAMS:**

#### **Notes from Mr. Austin -**

Mr. Austin reported that the NJ State Council on the Arts gave us an award of \$200,000 for 2024 for the arts. The concert this past Sunday was doo wop group Jersey Sound was well attended with over 300 people. Last year there were 286 people in attendance. He also noticed a lot new faces when Jersey Sound performs.

Mr. Austin is retiring at the end of August. November would be 28 years as WC's Arts Administrator and he said it has been very rewarding. Everyone wished him a happy retirement and thanked him for all he has done.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** (open)

none

**NEXT MEETING**

September 19, 2023

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Ms. Primerano made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 PM, seconded by Mr. Gardner. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Barnes  
Clerk, Land Preservation Dept.