

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

500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue
Oxford, NJ 07863

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON
FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Tierney called the meeting to order at 5:02PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Laurie Rapisardi, Charles Fineran (left at 6:13pm), Mark Young, Karin White, Jane Primerano, Richard Gardner (arrived at 5:19pm),

Members Absent: Randy Piazza Sr

Staff Present: Corey Tierney, Kim Barnes, Gina Rosseland, Art Charlton, Commissioner Lori Ciesla (arrived at 5:11pm)

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Mr. Tierney read the opening statement.

REORGANIZATION

Mr. Fineran nominated Ms. Rapisardi as Chairperson. Ms. Primerano seconded the nomination. Ms. Rapisardi accepted the nomination. Mr. Fineran, Mr. Young, Ms. White, and Ms. Primerano all voted yes. Ms. Rapisardi abstained. Mr. Gardner and Mr. Piazza were not present. Motion passed to have Ms. Rapisardi remain the Chairperson.

Ms. Primerano nominated Mr. Fineran as Vice Chairperson. Mr. Young seconded the nomination. Mr. Fineran accepted the nomination. Ms. Rapisardi, Mr. Young, Ms. White, and Ms. Primerano all voted yes. Mr. Fineran abstained. Mr. Gardner and Mr. Piazza were not present. Motion passed to have Mr. Fineran remain as Vice Chairperson.

Mr. Fineran nominated Ms. Primerano as Recording Secretary. Ms. White seconded the nomination. Ms. Primerano accepted the nomination. Ms. Rapisardi, Mr. Young, Ms. White, and Mr. Fineran all voted yes. Ms. Primerano abstained. Mr. Gardner and Mr. Piazza were not present. Motion passed to have Ms. Primerano remain the Recording Secretary.

Mr. Fineran made a motion to approve the 2024 Meeting Schedule, continuing with the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 5pm. Mr. Young seconded the motion. Mr. Gardner and Mr. Piazza were not present to vote. All other members voted yes. 2024 Meeting Schedule approved (3/19/24, 4/16/24, 5/21/24, 6/18/24, 7/16/24, 8/20/24, 9/17/24, 10/15/24, 11/19/24, 12/17/24, and 1/21/25).

MINUTES

The November 21, 2023 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Young made a motion to approve the minutes as is. Mr. Fineran seconded the motion. Mr. Gardner and Mr. Piazza were not present to vote. All other members voted yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Tierney provided the board members with a copy of an article Mr. Charlton received from the Warren County Administrator Alex Lazorisak titled "Morris County Funds Planning for Celebration of American Revolution's 250th Anniversary." Ms. Rapisardi asked if Warren County will be sending out a bicentennial press release. Mr. Charlton replied that we do for the specific events, like the bicentennial concerts.

Ms. Rosseland has attended the Revolutionary 250 meetings the last few years. Crossroads reached out to her to do a "History Happens Here" video at Shippen Manor. "History Happens Here" is a social studies curriculum initiative for grades 5-12. Ms. Rosseland is working on a script.

OLD BUSINESS

BICENTENNIAL BOOK:

The book is on standby.

WEBSITE:

The website is being updated as needed.

HISTORIC MARKERS:

Ms. Rosseland reported that Hope (2022 grantee) never got their sign and they withdrew their application, and there has not been much interest from the other towns. There was discussion about continuing to offer the History Marker Grant. {Mr. Gardner arrived at 5:19pm.} It was decided to leave it open and the Board will help with reaching out to the towns.

{{Since Mr. Fineran has to leave at 6pm, it was decided to vote on the grants now before moving on to the next agenda item.}}

Round 1 of the 2024 County History Partnership Program (CHPP) Grant would award the 6 applicants \$2,500 each for a total of \$15,000. This leaves \$10,123 for Round 2 (minus review panelists' fees). The applicants for the 2024 CHPP Grant are as follows:
Hardwick Twp. Historical Society; Hope Creative Team; Hope Historical Society; Knowlton Twp. Historic Commission; Ramsaysburg; and Rutherford Hall.

Mr. Fineran made a motion to approve all applications. Ms. Rapisardi seconded the motion.

Ms. Rapisardi, Mr. Young, Ms. White, and Mr. Gardner voted yes to all. Ms. Primerano abstained from voting on the Hope Creative Team and the Hope Historical Society applications, but voted yes to all others. Mr. Fineran abstained from voting on the Rutherford Hall application, but voted yes to all others. Motion passed to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to award all applicants the \$2,500 CHPP grant.

The applicants for the 2024 Local Arts Programming (LAP) Grant are as follows:
Abilities Northwest NJ (\$17,000); Arts at St. Luke's (\$6,000); Friends of Warren County Library (\$4,511); Hackettstown Community Band (\$4,000); Kaleidoscope Productions (\$18,000); Knowlton Twp. Historic Commission (\$9,000); Lopatcong Recreation Committee (\$6,000); NJ Civic Youth Ballet

(\$11,000); Warren County Arts (\$4,000); WCCC Visiting Authors Series (\$20,000); Washington BID (\$6,000).

Mr. Fineran made a motion to approve all applications, totaling \$105,511. Mr. Young seconded the motion.

Ms. Rapisardi, Mr. Young, Ms. White, Mr. Fineran, and Mr. Gardner voted yes to approve all. Ms. Primerano abstained from Arts at St. Luke's and Kaleidoscope, but voted yes to all others. Motion passed to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to award all applicants their requested grant amounts.

Ms. Rosseland shared a flyer advertising a book discussion and signing for Black History Month that BCHAB is sponsoring. Local author, Wayne Sherrer, will discuss his new book, *Phorgotten No More: Glimpses of African-American Presence in Phillipsburg, NJ 1777-2021*, at the Southeast Branch of the Warren County Library on Saturday, 2/24.

Ms. Primerano represented BCHAB at the Campbell Cultural Heritage House sponsored event for Black History Month – "In Daddy's Arms I Stand Tall", celebrating African-American Fathers. It was held at the Mt. Pisgah AME Church in Washington on Sunday, 2/18. She said it was a marvelous program and well-attended.

GALA (Fall 2024):

The gala is scheduled for Wednesday, 11/20/24, at David's Country Inn. Mr. Tierney said it is on the Board of County Commissioners' 2/28 meeting agenda for approval. There was discussion about a theme for this gala. The date is the actual 200th anniversary of the legislature passed to separate Warren County from Sussex County, so the Roaring 20's theme doesn't work. It was decided to just call it the "Bicentennial Gala."

SUMMER CONCERT (July 2024):

The summer concert will be held at Bread Lock Park on 7/13/24. Details still need to be worked out, but local artists and talent will be featured.

COMMUNITY DAY FESTIVAL (Summer 2025):

Mr. Tierney and Mr. Charlton met with Dr. Austin at Warren County Community College. The date will be Saturday, 6/28/25, with a rain date of Sunday, 6/29/25. Details still need to be worked out, but a drone show will be looked into in place of a fireworks show.

NEW BUSINESS

OUTREACH EVENTS:

Ms. Rapisardi, as Executive Director of the Hackettstown BID, is organizing the annual Hackettstown St. Patrick's Day Parade, scheduled for 3/10 at 3:30pm. She suggested BCHAB have representation in the parade. A vehicle could be decorated like in the Phillipsburg Halloween Parade. Ms. Ciesla volunteered to help decorate a vehicle, but she will be walking with the Commissioners in the parade.

Mr. Fineran brought up the Delaware River Sojourn (June 14-22, 2024) that Mr. Charlton is involved with. Mr. Fineran will be getting involved in it this year through the Friends of the Delaware Water Gap, but would like to tie in other groups he is part of. The Sojourn is a week of activities, food, paddling and camping along the Delaware River and he sees opportunities for the townships or

groups in Warren County to set up stations and/or signs. Mr. Charlton said there are anywhere from 60-100 people who participate.

{{Mr. Fineran left at 6:13pm.}}

COUNTY MUSEUMS & CHPP GRANTS:

Shippen Manor's 270th anniversary will be celebrated for its 2024 opening day on Sunday, 5/5/24, from 11am-4pm. Ms. Rosseland is working on scheduling reenactors, including three reenactment groups in different time periods, and tabling. Space is limited. There will be no rain date. In the event it does rain, it will get modified to move as much as possible indoors.

COUNTY ARTS PROGRAMS:

Ms. Rosseland received the information for the Senior Citizen Art Show. She will have it on the website soon. The show will be at the Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building on Friday, 5/17, from 10am-12pm, followed by a reception for the artists. The state has limited it this year to just one entry per person.

Scheduling the summer concert series is in process, but nothing can be finalized until we receive the state funding.

Teen Arts is tentative for 2025. It has not been run since before Covid. Ms. Rosseland would like to see it held at Warren County Community College.

They are also in the process of helping the Balloon Festival and the Farmers' Fair schedule performers.

Mr. Tierney shared that the position for Program Development Specialist, Cultural and Heritage Affairs has been filled with Bob Shelton to help Ms. Rosseland with the Arts.

(Outreach Events continued)

Ms. Rosseland shared that she may be going in September to Sussex County's History Day. She has also invited them to come to Shippen's 270th anniversary event. She said they also would like to be a part of Warren County's bicentennial since Warren used to be part of Sussex.

Ms. Ciesla said the Commissioners will be talking about getting new signs for preserved farms and since there have been some complaints that the signs entering the county are too small, getting new larger Welcome to Warren County signs as well. The bicentennial logo could be included to the signs.

There was discussion about how boundary lines were formed when we separated from Sussex and where the county markers are. Mr. Gardner said the boundary line goes right through the Yellow Frame Presbyterian Church. Ms. Rosseland said there is a marker on the corner of Yellow Frame and Rte. 94. Mr. Charlton went to see the county marker in Hardwick on Millbrook Stillwater Road. Another marker is at the mouth of the Flatbrook River in the middle of the water. The other marker is supposed to be in the Musconetcong River, but Ms. Rosseland hasn't found it yet.

PUBLIC COMMENT (open)

Ms. Ciesla was looking at the Explore Warren / BCHAB calendar which shows when all the towns were incorporated. She said she will talk to the Commissioners about making each town a sign that shows the town's name, when it was incorporated, and the bicentennial logo.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held March 19, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. White made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Young. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 6:31pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Barnes
Clerk, Land Preservation Dept.