

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

500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue
Oxford, NJ 07863

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
October 20, 2020**

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, Jane Primerano, Charles Fineran, Jeanette Iurato

Members Absent: John Metroke, Nancy Miller

Guests Present: Freeholder Richard Gardner

Staff Present: Corey Tierney, Christina Roberts, Gina Rosseland, Dennis Austin

Minutes: The September 15, 2020 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Ms. Primerano to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Bicentennial Commemoration

Logo – The logo design by Mr. Margulies has been approved with some minor adjustments.

Commemorative Book – Ms. Primerano said people can get one hour (by appointment only in the morning on Wednesdays) to research in the local history room of the main library branch. Right now, each branch is only open one day per week, but they are considering adding evening hours. Ms. Primerano looked up some information on the Liberty Twp. split from Hope Twp. She was also searching for “Your Fabulous Volunteers” by Dick Harpster for the Board member covering Washington, but the libraries did not have a copy; Mr. Gardner noted that he has a copy of the book.

Ms. Iurato said she will discuss Blairstown's section next month at their town council meeting and use that as a starting point for her discussions with the other towns she was assigned.

Mr. Gardner said that the Board members should introduce themselves to the town they will be working with and allow themselves enough time to gather and consolidate the information.

Membership – Ms. Gray's membership term expired in September and she is not seeking reappointment due to other commitments. Mr. Gardner may reach out to the Pohatcong History & Heritage Commission to see if they have another member that may be interested. New member suggestions will be added to the November agenda.

Website – Mr. Charlton discussed the new county website and discussed the draft design they received. Mr. Charlton said the Board should decide what all they want included on their page. Ms. Rapisardi said a page marker for the Bicentennial celebration should be included so information can be added as projects and events progress.

Facebook – Ms. Iurato inquired if a Facebook page will be created for the Bicentennial Commemoration. The Board discussed the Facebook page and how active it may become as the celebration activities progress. Mr. Gardner agreed that a separate a Facebook page (that is not part of County's Facebook page) would be beneficial. Ms. Rapisardi volunteered to assist Mr. Charlton with the Facebook page.

Historic Markers

- Mr. Tierney said that Sussex County created a website with all their historic markers listed and he would like to prepare an inventory of Warren County's, noting which ones need updating or replacing, and municipal historic signs should also be included. Many signs are inconsistent.
 - Ms. Rosseland suggested looking up historic markers by town on <https://www.hmdb.org> to get a starting point.
 - Mr. Fineran suggested listing preserved farms on a list as well.
 - Mr. Gardner said there are also historic family cemeteries on some of the farms.
 - Ms. Iurato asked if they should be requesting historic marker locations from municipalities. Ms. Rosseland said to check the <https://www.hmdb.org> site first and then add anything new to that.
 - Mr. Tierney said the focus should be on the County's signs to start.
 - Mr. Gardner said signage is key to having the public to visit the sites; markers don't have to be large, but can be simple and stand out - once people recognize the design of the markers, people will recognize importance.
 - Mr. Fineran suggested the signs include QR codes with historical information on each site.
 - Ms. Rapisardi inquired who will be paying for the signs. It may depend on the complexity and/or location of the signs, but some flexibility should be allowed.
 - Ms. Iurato said that the Blairstown Historic Committee is looking to add two or three new historic places; additional signs might not fit in the budget right now since Blairstown has an annual cap on their signs of \$4,000-5,000. They may be able to apply for a grant or financial assistance.
 - Signs are not included under capital improvement but may be covered under the additional funds received for the County History Partnership Program grant.
 - Several Morris Canal sites already have QR codes that lead visitors to a page on the Canal Committee's website. Mr. Fineran suggested that Mr. Tierney and Mr. Charlton look into various types of technology or an app builder to provide historical content at each site.
- Mr. Gardner left the meeting at 6:07 pm.

2021 Meeting Dates – The Board discussed frequency and location of 2021 meetings. Ms. Iurato suggested holding shorter workshop meetings as needed once the event gets closer. Once permitted, the Board agreed it would be beneficial to hold meetings at historic sites within the county. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Ms. Primerano to continue holding monthly meetings through 2021 with the ability to cancel any that are unnecessary. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

County Museums and CHPP Grant

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

Ms. Rosseland shared photos of the emergency deconstruction of the exterior wall (between the upper and lower drives) due to the recent tropical storm Isaias. The County was able to safely remove the lower pillar and the wall up until the tree stump. They will return to remove the remainder of the wall for that section (the upper pillar will not be removed for now).

CHPP Grant – 2020 Final reports due next week. The Department received a grant increase of approximately \$10,000 (\$25,123 total) for 2021.

Ms. Rosseland scheduled a two-part webinar to expend the remaining CHPP grant funds. The first part of the free webinar is scheduled for Oct 22nd (10-12 pm) for all history groups/sites in the county. Gary McGowan, a certified conservator will be leading the webinar about the basics of artifact preservation.

The second part is tentative for early December (date to be determined) and will pick up from where Mr. McGowan left off with the first part. He is asking that everyone bring an artifact to the webinar that they have questions about or want to learn to preserve/conservate/restore.

Museum Tours – The Shippen Manor visitation schedule has been canceled for the rest of the season. The mural restoration is complete; several Parks Foundation Trustees helped move the furniture back into the room.

Facebook – Ms. Rosseland posted information on Benjamin Lundy, a prominent abolitionist from Warren County. Ms. Iurato said Blairstown Museum did a post on Mr. Lundy in February.

Ms. Rosseland has been looking into French & Indian War forts in Warren County. She received permission from Delaware Water Gap Recreation Area to visit the site. She found and photographed a building mislabeled as a French & Indian War fort. She also found a small stone structure in the woods nearby and is working with Knowlton Historic to help identify what that building is.

Ms. Rosseland started the #WCLimeKilns series on Facebook.

Tunnel medallion – Ms. Rosseland said the tunnel medallion in the wall of the upper driveway at Shippen Manor was the old Van-Nest tunnel medallion. Mr. Austin said that Dick Harpster (a former Cultural & Heritage Commission member) was responsible for retrieving the stolen tunnel medallion and getting it placed in the wall.

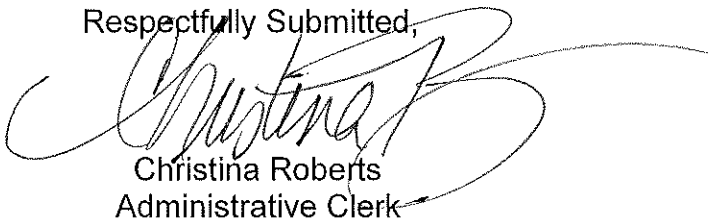
Regrantee Meetings – Mr. Austin said he is in the process of holding 2021 Arts grant regrantee meetings, but only for new applicants and/or new directors.

Music at St. Luke's - Ms. Primerano said that Music at St. Luke's (an Arts Grant regrantee) played at Garret Wall Park in Belvidere last weekend. She said it was great and more people should take advantage of the park.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2020 at 5:00 pm via WebEx.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Roberts
Administrative Clerk