

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

500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue
Oxford, NJ 07863

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

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Rapisardi opened the meeting at 5:03 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, Nancy Miller, Richard Gardner

Staff Present: Corey Tierney, Gina Rosseland, Dennis Austin, Art Charlton, Matthew Duckworth

Guests Present: Grace Kocher

Minutes: The March 16, 2021 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Ms. Rapisardi, to approve the minutes as read as Mr. Gardner abstained due to his absence at the March meeting. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CORRESPONDENCE

None

OLD BUSINESS

Bicentennial Commemoration

Book – Ms. Primerano explained that the subcommittee has not met yet. Ms. Rosseland asked who had an updated copy of what municipalities each member was going take responsibility for in regards to the book. Ms. Rosseland noted that there had previously been some confusion regarding the municipalities so she was looking to clarify the list. Ms. Rapisardi explained that Ms. Iurato had the most recent list that she knew of, but will look through her previous emails for a copy. Mr. Gardner noted that he is flexible and can cover any of the southern municipalities if needed. Mr. Fineran said the list may need to be updated as there have been some changes with Board personnel within the last year.

Ms. Rapisardi asked the Board for their comments on the letter that Ms. Rosseland had drafted to send to the municipalities regarding the book. The Board unanimously supported the letter and gave their blessing to send out the letters once the list of each member's municipality responsibilities has been finalized.

Website – Ms. Rosseland explained that she has been working on compiling items (previous agendas, minutes, etc.) to use during Granicus training. Ms. Rosseland noted that there are plans for both Mr. Charlton and Mr. Duckworth to attend the training as well.

Ms. Rosseland explained that there has been some issues adding some of the municipal historical societies due to difficulty finding some of their websites. Ms. Rosseland noted that she had been able to find a large majority of the websites and will be emailing out her current list tomorrow to the Board. Ms. Primerano noted that for Hope Township there is actually two different historical organizations, the Hope Historic District Commission and H.O.P.E. Mr. Gardner noted that in Franklin Township there is both a Historical Commission and Historical Society, similar to Hope.

Historic Markers – Mr. Tierney announced that the resolution for the historic markers had been approved by the County Commissioners at the Wednesday, 3/24, Commissioner meeting. Mr. Tierney explained that he and Ms. Rosseland will work to establish an application for municipalities to fill out to identify locations for the historic markers.

NEW BUSINESS

County Museums and CHPP Grant

County Museums – Ms. Rosseland noted that since her report had been submitted, Tom Lizzi had installed carpenter bee traps around Shippen Manor to keep the bees from destroying the porches and surrounding areas in the front of the building. Ms. Rosseland also announced that Ms. Rosseland, her husband Eric, and Mr. Duckworth began cleanup of the flower beds and driveway and are in the process of planning a perennial garden. Ms. Rosseland noted that Flowerland Growers in White Township had been selected as the flower supplier, due to their willingness and ability to provide invoicing to the County for the project.

Ms. Rosseland noted that she had contacted one of the directors of the Ice House Flats project in Phillipsburg and explained her hopes for the directors to keep the mill intact and have the history of the site be one of the main focal points.

Review of CHPP Grant Applicants – Ms. Rosseland announced that Round 2 of the CHPP grants for 2021 would be \$1,500 instead of \$1,000. Ms. Rosseland asked the Board to let her know if there were any eligible candidates in the County that they knew of that had not been previously receiving her outreach emails. Mr. Tierney asked the Board for a vote to approve the Round 1 grantees. Mr. Tierney noted that both he and Ms. Rosseland recommend that the grantees be approved as read. Ms. Rapisardi asked if it could be a blanket statement or each grantee needed to be voted on separately. Mr. Tierney explained that it could be a blanket statement about all of the CHPP grantees.

Motioned by Mr. Gardner, seconded by Ms. Primerano, to recommend to the County Commissioners that all six CHPP grantees (Musconetcong Watershed Association, Blairstown Historic Preservation Committee, Friends of Ramsaysburg, Greenwich Historical Society, Knowlton Township Historic Commission, and Rutherford Hall Foundation) be awarded their requested grant funding. Motion carried as Mr. Fineran abstained due to his connections with the Musconetcong Watershed Association and Rutherford Hall Foundation, and Ms. Rapisardi abstained due to her connection with the Rutherford Hall Foundation.

County Arts

Teen Arts 2021 – Mr. Austin noted that he did not think an in-person Teen Arts would be possible for 2021. Mr. Austin explained that his meeting with the State Council on the Arts did not provide the necessary virtual ideas, so Teen Arts will be cancelled for this year. Mr. Austin said that he will focus on having a full slate of programming for 2022 rather than trying to work around having events during the pandemic.

Art Grant – Mr. Austin noted that there had been one Arts Grant applicant having difficulty with their application. Mr. Austin said he will continue to work with them over the phone and in-person if necessary to give them the best opportunity to have a successful outcome.

Mr. Austin noted that he had released a press release highlighting Peter Callas of White Township, who has a current exhibit residing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Mr. Tierney noted that he will have it posted on the Cultural & Heritage portion of the Warren Parks website and on the Shippen Manor Facebook page.

PUBLIC COMMENT

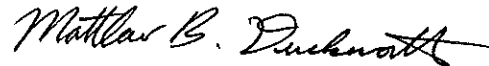
Mr. Charlton announced that the Warren County Historical Trail Tour put on by Friends of Ramsaysburg is currently being planned for this year. Ms. Rapisardi asked if the Board would be interested in asking to be involved. Ms. Rosseland noted that she and Mr. Tierney will look into it. Ms. Rapisardi asked if it was strictly a driving tour or if there would be individual house tours as well. Ms. Rosseland noted that she believed that it was more of a driving tour, but will look into it more.

Mr. Gardner announced his plans to work on writing about both dairy farming and African-American history for the book. Mr. Gardner noted both were pivotal in the growth and development of Warren County and should be recounted as part of the Bicentennial of the County.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2021 at 5:00 pm via WebEx.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Ms. Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Gardner, to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Matthew B. Duckworth
Community Service Aide