

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

500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue
Oxford, NJ 07863

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
October 19, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Rapisardi opened the meeting at 5:04 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
Art Charlton (in at 5:05 PM); Rick Gardner (in at 5:24 PM); John Metroke (in at 5:26PM)

Staff Present: Corey Tierney, Gina Rosseland, Dennis Austin, Jennifer Correa-Kruegel

Minutes: The September 21, 2021 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Fineran motioned, seconded by Ms. Primerano (with typo), to approve the minutes as read. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT- none

CORRESPONDENCE- none

OLD BUSINESS

Bicentennial Commemoration

Book – Ms. Primerano said that she and Ms. Iurato have not gotten together yet and requested that they meet after the Warren History Trail weekend as Ms. Primerano will be a Distillery Tour Guide behind the Inn at Millrace Pond on Millbrook Rd for it's reopening to the public.

Website – Ms. Rosseland said there was nothing new at this time but she has been making updates as they come up. Mr. Charlton added Explore Warren History Trail to top of Explore Warren website with hopes that it will be an annual event and be well-established by 2025. Ms. Primerano pointed out that Morris County has done this for years and it has been incredibly successful.

Historic Markers – Ms. Rosseland has nothing new at this time and plans to work on the grant for it over the winter months.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Rapisardi commented on the awards that Board members were going to be receiving and that she would email the board to advise them of when the ceremonies were taking place.

Rick Gardner will be entered into the Warren County Hall of Fame on November 6, 2021

Corey Tierney will honored as Partner of the Year by the Foodshed Alliance on October 27, 2021

Notes from Ms. Rosseland (*Attached*):

Ms. Rosseland reviewed items in her report with the Board.

Ms. Rossland was on the radio this past week promoting the Shippen, the History Trail and the need for volunteers at Shippen Manor. She is trying to get more docents in anticipation of current ones not being able to participate in the near future. Ms. Rossland spoke with Scott Lance who did interpretation on 18th century carpentry. Mr. Lance is the industrial arts teacher at Warren Tech and inquired about projects his students could assist with. Ms. Rossland particularly mentioned the Shippen Bollards. Mr. Lance is working on getting approval from the Board of Education. The students will not be working on site at Shippen and will strictly be working at the school on this project.

Ms. Rossland harvested milkweed seeds from the pods at Shippen Manor and inquired if anyone would like some. Ms. Rossland has a donation of lime from Sharon from the Parks Foundation and will need volunteers to assist in putting down the lime.

The Oxford Festival and Tree Lighting Ceremony is taking place the Saturday after Thanksgiving this year. Ms. Rossland advised them that there would need to be restrictions on the event due to the fact Shippen Manor is still closed and that staff would be unavailable since it is a holiday weekend. Mr. Tierney emphasized that the town will be required to provide a certificate of insurance and he will speak with the Mayor about it if necessary.

Ms. Rossland has spoken to Oxford Council regarding the Explore Warren History Trail sign.

Mr. Gardner complimented Ms. Rossland's work at Shippen and is interested to see in the future, what comes the County's way.

Notes from Mr. Austin (*Attached*):

Mr. Austin reviewed items in his report with the Board.

Arts Grants Regrantees Agreements will be sent out the 3rd or 4th week of December.

The assisted living residencies have 3 performers currently. The accordion player that had knee replacement surgery and Covid is now recovered.

The Teen Arts just had White Township sign on in addition to North Warren, Phillipsburg, Warren Tech and Harmony. Programming for this grant includes Marvel comics and people coming to work with choral groups.

In 2021, new art partners include the Hackettstown Public Library which made a beautiful request for funding. The Strand Arts Center in Hackettstown is partially signed up but they had an excellent meeting with Chris Lance last week. The Phillipsburg Board of Recreation had their third annual Pork Roll a Palooza went from 3 to 2 bands probably from the weather. Mr. Austin has someone who wants to speak with Ms. Rapisardi regarding wall paintings because Hackettstown is interested in doing that. Mr. Austin believed something could be arranged with National Endowment for the Arts. Smaller would be better because they are not as susceptible to deterioration and placed in more sheltered areas. Mr. Austin suggested Ms. Rapisardi and Melanie have a discussion before the end of the year.

Ms. Rapisardi inquired about creating a metal archway through alleyways to add art in areas that look a little shabby. Ms. Miller recommended the Warren Tech students who have a metal work class. Mr. Austin was concerned about kids climbing on the structure but Ms. Rapisardi felt it would not be an issue since it would be something they would be walking under.

Mr. Austin continued with the Romano Gallery at Blair Academy who had wanted to partner with us but decided not to due to Covid-resurgence; Maybe next year.

Ms. Primerano expressed concerns because she ~~the Strand Art Center~~ heard the building, the Strand Art Center, is for sale and wonders if that will impact what the Art Center does. Mr. Austin said the owner lives there and the building is gerrymandered.

Mr. Austin talked about our growing relationship with 4-H and requested a meeting with Elaine and Mr. Tierney. They have big plans we can get behind and support. Mr. Tierney said he will get it set-up.

Events

Ms. Rapisardi we should start to think of an event on behalf of the Bicentennial Cultural and Heritage Committee should probably start thinking about something for the beginning of next year. Mr. Charlton had a band lined up before Covid was an issue and will reach out to them again to see if they would be interested in next summer. Ms. Primerano pointed out that there were more electrical resources at Garrett Wall Park. The board agreed that thinking about the event and discussing it for early next would be good. Ms. Rapisardi requested that the board come back to the next meeting with ideas for what they would like to see in the event.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2021 at 5:00 pm via WebEx.

Mr. Gardner inquired about the status of the county and meetings taking place?

Mr. Charlton said that while the Commissioners are holding in-person meetings and public is allowed with appropriate masking and temperature readings and plexi glass dividers up on the dais. Other groups are still meeting remotely and they are actually finding that attendance is much better with virtual meetings than in-person, particularly for meetings.

Mr. Gardner asked if the county would give the option if we use safety precautions?

Mr. Tierney responded that all committee meetings are virtual and it is not feasible to do a hybrid/ virtual at the Land Preservation office. The directive from the County Commissioners and Administrator is that they strongly recommend virtual meetings for county staff and published notice for 2021 is that all meetings are virtual. If the board elects to have in-person, the department will need to renote it and if boards switch back and forth, more notice is needed.

Mr. Gardner then asked if subcommittees met in person?

Mr. Tierney said yes as long as there wasn't a quorum, no official business, and with whatever COVID precautions those board members were personally comfortable with.

Ms. Primerano remind/ tell everyone that the Warren County Community Singers in Program on November 13 & 14 at the Washington Presbyterian Church; limited seating; not as fancy as Winterfest of song; a press release is going out tomorrow; poster on their Facebook page.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Ms. Primerano motioned, seconded by Ms. Iurato to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Correa-Kruegel
Community Service Aide