

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

500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue
Oxford, NJ 07863

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
March 15, 2022**

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, Charles Fineran, Jane Primerano,, Nancy Miller

Staff Present: Corey Tierney, Gina Rosseland, Dennis Austin, Jennifer Correa-Kruegel, Art Charlton
(in at 5:11)

Minutes: The February 15, 2022 minutes were reviewed. Ms. Miller motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Ms. Primerano seconded with correction to page 2 with the name “Hibbler” should be spelled “Hibler”. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT- none

CORRESPONDENCE- none

OLD BUSINESS

Bicentennial Commemoration

Book –

Ms. Primerano sent out book information to the subcommittee and Ms. Iurato had responded that she would make comments to it.

Website

Ms. Rosseland said that she had created a new subpage called the “Oxford Furnace Firebacks” because this year we are going to be celebrating the 280th Anniversary of the Furnace because it could not be celebrated last year due to Covid. Went to the 1993 to the Oxford Furnace bulletin and reached out to all the sites to see if they still had the firebacks or had an online database as to where she could find them and link it. Some sites had familial connections to Shippen Manor. She is still reaching out to personal owners of Firebacks who will not be listed on the website because they are private owners. She did visit a site in Pohat a week or so ago and the owner gave a tour of the property which dates back to just after the American Revolution and constructed by a veteran of the revolution. He had one of the firebacks for Oxford Furnace. Museums have been reaching out regarding connections to more firebacks and think they know where some are. There was one on display at the Museum of the American Revolution and they were very helpful. Ms. Rosseland is also working on the genealogy of the early families of the Manor and will be put under the Shippen Manor History. Trying to encourage people to go to other museums. Mr. Tierney shared his screen with the new portion of the page for the firebacks.

Mr. Fineran inquired as to if the firebacks were all royal emblems or other subjects. Ms. Rosseland said the last she had seen produced was from the 1740's to 1762. It was the royal coat of arms for the Hanoveron (sp?) family and there are 4 different types that have been identified.

Historic Marker

Ms. Rosseland got the grant done and is in the process of setting it up for the website. She is going to create a letter for the municipalities and send that out so they are aware. She will also give a blurb for Art Charlton to post on the website so that all the municipalities and towns know about the grant.

Ms. Rapisardi inquired as to the timeline to complete it. Ms. Rosseland said she would be ready to go as soon as she had it all done. Mr. Tierney said we will probably get it out in the next week or so and then the deadline for the application will be the end of October. This board will review and approve them, the commissioners then will probably approve it in December. The money will be offered in 2023 and the applicants will have until the end of 2023 to finish the projects. They will then submit for reimbursement and show that it was purchased and installed.

Business (Cultural and Heritage Reports):

Report from Shippen Manor:

Ms. Rosseland reviewed her notes from Shippen and the various repairs taking place in Shippen. She also discussed the signage for the Oxford Furnace that will have a QR code. Mr. Tierney added that Mr. Metroke was helpful in the removal of the old fence around the furnace. The Bridge Department added a new split rail fence so that area is looking much cleaner. The interpretive sign will be a good addition.

Additionally Ms. Rosseland found a framed collage from 6 photographs of 1880 that show the Oxford Nail Company and related industries. She spoke with Mr. Metroke and when the repairs are complete and they start to put things back in the room, only industrial items will be returned. She will be bringing it to Michael's tomorrow to get the UV glass picture frame, to prevent fading and archival quality matting.

Ms. Rosseland also found a thousand dollar certificate for the Oxford Iron Company signed by Seldon T. Scranton in the 1800's, one of the first Scrantons work in Oxford and manage the properties.

Ms. Rosseland is working with Linda Swift to create temporary display panels for mining to show the map of all the mining locations in Oxford and also a timeline of the furnace to be put up and taken down as needed.

Ms. Rosseland continues to find various historical artifacts and documents such as ledger books, work journals and is working on different methods of archiving the documents.

Ms. Rosseland has had a few people in the county admin building asking when you think you will start to fundraise and plan events. So if that is something that the board can start talking about as far as what you would like to do and reaching out to businesses and corporations for fundraising or sponsorships and then we can start to advertise for it.

Ms. Rapisardi suggested adding it to the agenda today to quickly discuss this after Dennis has given his report.

County Arts (Dennis)

Mr. Austin simple 2 items to report. Today he finished the last of the agreements and he will be sending them to the regrantees. After they sign their agreements and are returned, he will do a press release on the total amount and name the organizations.

Mr. Austin is also working on the concert series and is about half finished. Some artists had dropped out due to personal reasons.

Ms. Miller inquired if Mr. Austin need to fill their space. He reported that they had played on Labor Day each year. He is not sure who he will get for Labor Day at this point. He doubts he will have another Irish band but yes, he is looking for another artists. Chair of Centenary's Theatre Program, was thinking of doing a partnership. The state said no absolutely not because the funding for both the programs comes from the same source. However, in fine print from the state each department can apply. Was working to get the English department to apply and do the program but that was not going to work either.

MCCT Representative:

Mr. Tierney explained that we will be having the MCCT meetings again this year in person. Ms. Kruegel is working on getting the applications out in the coming weeks and they will be due back mid-June. The MCCT will convene in July or August where the applications will be reviewed and we used to do a site visit on a Saturday along with presentations. They will meet on the first Saturday of the month August through October.

Ms. Miller has served as liaison from this group in the past. Ms. Miller inquired if she could serve again. Mr. Fineran motioned for Ms. Miller to serve as liaison for the BCAHB on the MCCT grant committee. Ms. Rapisardi seconded. All in favor.

Mr. Fineran inquired as to how much money they would have this year for grants. Mr. Tierney said that they had budgeted for \$500,000.

Ms. Miller inquired as to how many people were expected to apply. Mr. Tierney wasn't sure but they were carrying over 3 applications from last year. He expects to receive additional applications but he is unsure of what is out there just yet.

BCAHB Events:

Ms. Rapisardi revisited the discussion about upcoming events. She inquired with Mr. Charlton about a band that would perform in Belvidere, in the square. Mr. Charlton reviewed correspondence with the band and send them a message. Ms. Primerano and Mr. Tierney pointed out that the park has made some really nice updates recently with new sidewalks and lamp posts. Mr. Tierney said that the park is ready to go, unless there is any other infrastructure needed for the band.

Ms. Rapisardi inquired as to what time of year would be best. Mr. Charlton said the band has toured in July in the past and would probably repeat that.

Ms. Primerano said they could set-up anywhere in the square.

Ms. Rapisardi suggested a subcommittee unless everyone would like to be a part of the planning process. She felt waiting until the next meeting would not be enough time in the planning process for something in July. One thing about having just a band but if they are going to have merchandise for sale.

Mr. Fineran suggested an additional meeting with everyone in order to complete anything that requires a motion of approval.

Ms. Rapisardi suggested a meeting soon to work on the process as a kick-off. April 5 at 5 PM webex meeting will work for everyone to do a virtual meeting but the business will only be about the event planning.

Mr. Tierney confirmed that the meetings would be going back to in-person on April 19 at 5 PM in our meeting room.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Ms. Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Fineran to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Correa-Kruegel
Community Service Aide