

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

500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue
Oxford, NJ 07863

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
September 19, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Rapisardi called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Laurie Rapisardi, Mark Young, Jane Primerano, Randy Piazza Sr, Charlie Fineran (arrived 5:15pm)

Members Absent: Rick Gardner, Karin White

Staff Present: Corey Tierney, Kim Barnes, Gina Rosseland,

Staff Joining Via Phone: Commissioner Director Lori Ciesla, Art Charlton

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Ms. Rapisardi read the opening statement and welcomed new member, Mr. Randy Piazza Sr, to the Advisory Board.

MINUTES

The August 15, 2023 minutes were reviewed. Ms. Primerano noted Mr. Charlton's name was misspelled and made a motion to approve the minutes with that correction. Mr. Young seconded. All in favor, except for Mr. Piazza who abstained. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT (agenda items only)

none

CORRESPONDENCE

none

OLD BUSINESS

BICENTENNIAL BOOK:

Ms. Rosseland was not able to start working on it yet. Mr. Young made the suggestion that reaching out to people in person works better. The plan is to provide each town/township in the county the information that we have, whether it be from the 1963 book or new information learned since then. The towns can provide updated information or if we do not hear back, it will be published in the new book as is. Each town will get one chapter in the book. A decision will need to be made if we self-publish, obtain a publishing company, or use Arcadia. Mr. Young is willing to go to one or two larger companies to ask for sponsorship.

WEBSITE:

Ms. Rosseland and Mr. Charlton added the "Events" link under the "About" drop down menu. A photo album will be added in the future. Mr. Charlton also added a blue "call to action" button on the main page to order gala tickets. The tickets have been online for about a week.

HISTORIC MARKERS:

Ms. Rosseland has two applications for markers – Washington BID (sign for canal crossing on Route 31 and Myrtle Ave, Washington Boro) and Harmony Township (resubmitted application for signage at Van Nest-Hoff-Vannatta Farm).

- Washington BID marker: Washington Boro Manager gave Washington BID permission to apply for the grant. The sign would be on town property (Myrtle Ave & Rt. 31) to replace current signage and verbiage would include “Morris Canal in Washington Borough 1824-1924, Port Washington Crossed Here”. There may, however, be a greenway conflict, so Ms. Rosseland asked them to come up with a backup plan. Proposed backup sign would say “Port Washington Crossed Here” which is misleading because it did not cross Rt 31, but rather it was on the corner. They are working on updating the information.
- Harmony Township marker: They are reapplying for a marker at Van Nest-Hoff-Vannatta Farmstead from last year because verbiage was previously not detailed enough. After extensive research, sign to read “The Van Nest-Hoff-Vannatta Farm, The farmstead, established by John Van Nest circa 1763, embodies an intact agricultural site featuring an 1824 Dutch-style barn, an 18th century stone farmhouse, and several 19th century outbuildings.”

Ms. Rosseland and Mr. Tierney recommend to only vote on the Harmony Township sign and to refer the Washington BID sign to the Morris Canal Committee to comment on. Ms. Primerano made a motion to approve the Harmony Township sign as is. Mr. Fineran seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Rosseland also reported that 2022 applicant Hope Township’s sign was ordered. She is waiting to be notified once it is installed.

NEW BUSINESS

ROARING TWENTIES FUNDRAISING GALA 10/21:

Rutherford Hall does not provide alcohol and neither does the caterer (Mama’s). There was lengthy discussion on full insurance for providing the alcohol at the gala and what other options might be. As of this meeting, two tickets had been sold online. Suggestions included not serving alcohol and lowering the ticket price, possibly moving the location to a venue that provides the alcohol so it eliminates the risk for the county, and/or postponing the event. Ms. Rapisardi is going to call other venues in the county to check on availability which will be a deciding factor. Everything else is ready to go – entertainment, wine glasses, candy cigarettes & bubble gum cigars. Ms. Primerano shared that we have been offered a 1920’s era ashtray stand to borrow for the event.

Mr. Young said he did reach out to some golf courses and has not yet had luck getting any golf items for the silent auction.

OUTREACH EVENTS:

Lopatcong Community Day 8/26 -

Ms. Ciesla did not attend because she was out of town as reported at last month’s meeting and she was not sure if Mr. Gardner attended. She understands the township had some issues with its event planner.

Belvidere Victorian Day 9/9 –

Mr. Young stated the day started slowly, but as the day went on, weather improved and the crowds came. Mr. Charlton and Holly Luberto had an “Explore Warren” table set up and there were also rack cards being handed out at the Community Center.

Alpha Harvest Festival 10/14 2pm-6pm -

Ms. Rosseland reported the event is rain or shine and she will be setting up a table and tent there. It will be similar to National Night Out with free activities. Last year, they had 400-600 attendees. In addition to asking Ms. White and/or Mr. Gardner for help, Mr. Fineran will have an Allamuchy table there, so he could help Ms. Rosseland.

History Trail 11/4 & 11/5 -

Ms. Rosseland said maps of the history trail are being distributed at locations throughout the county. The site markers from last year can be used again since they did not have dates on them.

Ms. Rapisardi stated the next gala is anticipated for June 2024 at David's Country Inn. The weekends are already booked. A Wednesday would work well for the venue's schedule. Once it is determined what will be happening with the current gala, this may need to be revisited.

COUNTY MUSEUMS & CHPP GRANTS:

Ms. Rosseland reported the Shippen Manor museum attendance on Sept. 3rd and "On the Daily" with theme of "Laundry Day" had 20-25 attendees. On Sept. 10th, the threat of rain downsized the Revolutionary War event and everything was moved indoors. There were 25-30 visitors. Volunteers from the Parks Foundation helped direct parking. It turned out to be a great day!

COUNTY ARTS PROGRAMS:

As Dennis Austin retired at the end of August, Ms. Rosseland is covering the Arts Programs until the position is filled. Paddy & the Pale Boys played at the summer lawn concert on Sept. 3rd. Visitor count was estimated to be 230 people, including eight children. Parks Foundation volunteers did an outstanding job helping with parking.

Ms. Rosseland is working on the 2023 Local Arts Programming (LAP) grants and mini-grants (under \$2,000). She is in the final stages of writing the 2024 application. An announcement will be made towards the end of the month and applications will be due in December.

PUBLIC COMMENT (open)

none

NEXT MEETING

October 17, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. Primerano made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 PM, seconded by Mr. Young. All in favor and meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Barnes
Clerk, Land Preservation Dept.